

HB0027 and SB0392

FAV

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I am a resident of Deale, Maryland, and I'm advocating for the Maryland Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program for State level R&D funding (HB 0027 and SB0392). Since having COVID-19 in February 2023, I continue to suffer from headaches, forgetfulness, and fatigue. I had a "mild" case of COVID-19 after vaccination and multiple boosters. I did not go to the hospital and was not given anything for treatment when I went to urgent care. When I moved from Alaska to Maryland in August 2023, I thought that I would suddenly have access to doctors who understood my health concerns and could help me. Once I started attending appointments, I realized that wasn't the case. Doctors seem to barely acknowledge my concerns. Some have been openly rude as they have told me that there is nothing wrong with me. The best have treated my symptoms by going through the established checklist with medications to try. None of these medications have brought me any relief but at least there is some hope when a new one is suggested. I no longer plan for the future. I just make it through each day. All of my energy goes to maintaining my job and making sure that no one finds out that I struggle to get through each day. The millions of people who are suffering with Long COVID are looking for answers and relief and finding none. More research is needed and the Federal Government is failing and has been failing since the beginning of the pandemic.

The proposed Maryland Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program could provide much needed research to health professionals to offer solutions to the hundreds of symptoms from Long COVID. As a Maryland-centric program, there won't be concerns of losing federal funding with changing priorities of new Administrations. Furthermore, all data and findings can seamlessly be available to Maryland health professionals and incorporated into treatment plans.