

**TO:** The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair  
*House Health Committee*

**HB27**  
**Favorable**

**FROM:** Sameer Sidh  
*Director, Maryland Government Affairs*

**DATE:** February 6, 2026

**RE:** HB27: Maryland Technology Development Corporation - Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program

---

Johns Hopkins supports HB27: Maryland Technology Development Corporation - Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program. This bill can provide additional funding for research activity at a time when Johns Hopkins has experienced significant declines in federal research grant funding, while also providing a targeted opportunity to enhance our Johns Hopkins COVID Long Study.

HB27 establishes a Maryland Long COVID Research Fund to promote state-funded life sciences research, development, commercialization and manufacturing through grants and loans to public and private entities in the State. This Fund could be directly supportive of our Johns Hopkins COVID Long Study, which aims to better understand how COVID-19 has impacted people's health. Since February 2021, over 36,000 individuals have participated in the study, including more than 31,000 respondents from territories of the United States, and 4,500 additional participants from across the globe.

In addition, nearly 12,000 have completed their first follow-up survey, demonstrating continued engagement in the Study from participants. A cohort profile paper was published in the BMJ Open, which can be found [here](#).

This program, and others like it, are critical given the hundreds of millions of dollars lost in terminated grants, and the significant reduction in new grants to Johns Hopkins University experienced in just the last 12 months.

Last, it should be noted that the proposed legislation doesn't require an appropriation, allowing for management of fiscal impacts in a challenging budget year.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB27.