

My name is Phil Smith and I am a Maryland resident asking you to please support and vote in favor of HB0027. This bill will create critical programs like the Maryland Long Covid Research Fund and support Long Covid innovation which Long Covid patients can't wait another minute for.

My daughter has severe Long Covid, which she got after being infected with Covid from her doctor. Prior to contracting Covid, my daughter was a long-distance runner and in graduate school. Today, due to her Long Covid, she is fully disabled and mostly bed-bound. Currently there are no approved treatments or cures for long COVID.

Covid-19 is still running rampant through Maryland, leaving new cases of Long Covid in adults and children in its wake. Wastewater data shows around 117,300 new weekly cases currently in Maryland¹, which will leave around 20,000 people disabled by Long Covid...again, weekly. Annapolis is at the CDC's highest level of Covid spread- Very High. Nationally, Covid case numbers are higher now than all of 2020 and 2021. This is a crisis. Around 25-30% of people who get Covid will develop Long Covid (LC)², a complex disease that is composed of 200 symptoms and has no approved treatment or cure³. The likelihood of developing LC goes up around 14% with each Covid infection, so by three infections, the chance is 40%⁴. The risk further increases if someone is a women⁵, Black⁶, Latino⁷, disabled or chronically ill⁸, low-income⁹, Trans¹⁰, has HIV/AIDS¹¹, elderly¹², Indigenous¹³, and/or a healthcare worker¹⁴. Around 50% of people with LC also develop the devastating condition Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME)¹⁵, which has a recovery rate of only ~5%¹⁶.

Marylanders with Long Covid and their friends and family are desperate for help and the federal funding and care for LC research is abysmal at best. We are depending on our state leaders to care about us and fight for us. Please support HB0027 and be the leaders and innovators that sick Marylanders deserve.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Phil Smith

Lexington Park, MD

1. <https://www.pmc19.com/data/>

2. <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/studies-across-14-nations-show-25-30-rate-long-covid>

3. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2805540>

4. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2023001/article/00015-eng.htm>

5. <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/long-term-effects/index.html>

6. www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-recover-research-identifies-potential-long-covid-disparities

7. <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/long-term-effects/index.html>

8. <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/long-term-effects/index.html>

9. <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/long-term-effects/index.html>

10. <https://longcovidjustice.org/trans/>

11. <https://longcovidjustice.org/hiv-lc-risk/>

12. <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/long-term-effects/index.html>

13.

ncuih.org/wp-content/uploads/Takeaways-Indigenous-Wellness-A-Conversation-on-Long-Covid-5.25.2023.pdf

14. www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/studies-detail-high-rates-long-covid-among-healthcare-dental-workers#

15.

<https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/long-covid-mecfs-and-the-importance-of-studying-infection-associated-illnesses>

16. https://me-pedia.org/wiki/Prognosis_for_myalgic_encephalomyelitis_and_chronic_fatigue_syndrome