

February 6, 2026

Delegate Heather Bagnall
Chair, Maryland House Health Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0027 - SUPPORT

Dear Delegate Bagnall and Health Committee members,

My name is Victoria Copeland, I am a social worker, advocate, and policy analyst; but more than that, I am someone who became significantly disabled after one COVID infection. I am writing today to express my support for HB 0027 which would require the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to establish a grant and loan program to provide funding for Long COVID innovation. As of 2025, NIH RECOVER researchers found that between 10 and 26% of adults who have had COVID-19 developed Long COVID.¹ Additionally Long COVID Is estimated to affect 400 million individuals globally, with a potential annual economic burden approaching \$1 trillion.² It is essential that we fund innovative research into treating Long COVID, and preventing COVID transmission. Maryland has the opportunity to lead the way on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration,
Victoria Copeland, Ph.D, MSW

¹ <https://recovercovid.org/news/recover-research-update-june-2025>

² <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12639003/>