

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
By Adelaida Shelley, former Teaching Assistant
HB 275**

**State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty, Part-Time Faculty, and Graduate Assistants
February 14, 2023**

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I was a TA at UMCP for two years and both witnessed and experienced first-hand how disempowered and voiceless GAs are. We had little to no say over working conditions, hours, and pay. We had little to no say over our relationships with our supervisors, especially when they took advantage of our vulnerable and subordinated status. And finally we had little to no say over decisions being made that affected all University System of Maryland workers. The right to join or form a bargaining unit will finally allow GAs to have a say over those very things. I left UMCP for personal reasons, but have kept in touch with my colleagues who continue push for this basic, fundamental human right to be extended to this sector of USM workers; workers without which the entire university system would cease to function.

Sincerely,
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