

**Committees:** Appropriations

**Testimony on:** HB275

**Position:** Favorable

10 February 2023

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and the members of the Appropriations Committee,

*The University of Maryland, Student Government Association* supports HB275 in granting collective bargaining rights to faculty, part-time faculty, and certain graduate students at the following institutions: the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and the St. Mary's College of Maryland. This bill is significant because it protects collective bargaining procedures, and allows these groups to unionize if they so choose.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for this important bill. My name is Caroline Thorne and I am the Director of Government Affairs for the University of Maryland's Student Government Association (SGA). On behalf of our SGA, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB275 to ensure that faculty, part-time faculty, and graduate students' right to unionize is protected.

Investing in graduate education, and the well-being of graduate students is of the utmost importance to the functioning and operations of our institutions. Undergraduates interact with graduate students serving as teaching assistants, research mentors and assistants, as advisors, and in many other capacities. Currently, some graduate assistants are living and working in poverty, which aside from having detrimental impacts on their own work and lives, negatively affects the undergraduates they are teaching. The protection of the ability to unionize would allow graduate students to form a union if they desire, which could improve their own standard of living as well as the operations of education at the universities.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB275.

Thank you,



*Caroline Thorne*  
*Student Government Association, Director of Government Affairs*  
*University of Maryland — College Park*  
*cthorne@terpmail.umd.edu*