

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
By Laura DeMarco, Graduate 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 live in an area with an extremely high cost of living, and my wages as a graduate assistant are not keeping up. Despite having one of the better-paid positions on campus (by a mile), I often have to skip meals at work because I cannot afford to pay for lunches. I also find myself petrified of my living situation. I can barely afford to live where I do, but moving back with my parents would jeopardize my education. I can't afford to stay, but I have nowhere to go.

Sincerely,
Laura DeMarco
Graduate Assistant
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