

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
By Alptug Aytakin, 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,

The cost of living in College Park, due to its proximity to District of Columbia, is quite high; the stipend given by the school isn't enough for one to sustain their life while also living in a good neighbourhood and a not bad home. At the current stipend level, living near campus is impossible without leaving in houses where 5+ 25+ year olds are forced to live together; and moreover, the money is only enough if one is living a barely sociable life. The school is not providing enough means to alleviate the already high economic burden on a graduate student's life. They are subpar on their duties, while they are expecting so highly from us.

Sincerely,
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