

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland Senate Finance Committee
By Samuel DiBella, Graduate Assistant
SB 247**

**State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty, Part-Time Faculty,
and Graduate Assistants
February 16, 2023**

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Finance Committee,

"Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Samuel DiBella and I am a member of the University of Maryland, College Park, community. I am writing to express my strong support for SB247/HB275 (State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty, Part-Time Faculty, and Graduate Assistants), granting collective bargaining rights to faculty, part-time faculty, and graduate assistants at an institution within the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, or St. Mary's College of Maryland.

This issue matters to me personally because, as a representative of the College of Information Studies in UMD's meet-and-confer process, I have seen how broken our institution's system of shared governance is. While graduate assistants survive on food stamps, or drop out due to low wages, the university administration refuses to consider our requests for their help in good faith. We are tired of contributing what little energy we have outside of our insecure, precarious jobs at the university to yet another advisory process that is designed to ignore our views.

I myself have been forced to teach an adjunct instructor of record how to teach, because he was assigned to a course two weeks before the semester and provided no curriculum support?this is not how an institution of higher-learning should conduct itself, and the education that we provide to our undergrad students will only suffer due to the turnover of instructors and increased course load every teaching assistant is being asked to support.

I'm tired of my friends having to muddle through this institution with second or third jobs; I am tired of them being on food stamps; I am tired of listening to bad-faith justifications for the USM's exploitative practices. We are coming to you because we need your help to restore accountability and workplace democracy to some of Maryland's largest public institutions.

Sincerely,
Samuel DiBella
Graduate Assistant
Information Studies
University of Maryland, College Park
Hornbake 4105, 4130 Campus Drive, College Park, Maryland 20740
samuel.dibella@gmail.com