

Committees: Appropriations

Testimony on: SB247

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 SB247 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, or the St. Mary's College of Maryland. This bill is significant because it protects collective bargaining procedures and creates separate units for higher education systems.

Collective bargaining is a fundamental human right recognized by international law and essential to ensuring fair working conditions and equitable compensation. All workers, including graduate students, have the right to join together and negotiate with their employers for better pay, benefits, and working conditions. By denying graduate students the ability to collectively bargain, we are depriving them of their basic human right to freely associate and negotiate for their well-being. Allowing graduate students to participate in collective bargaining not only respects their human rights, but it also empowers them to advocate for themselves and improve their working conditions, ultimately benefiting the entire academic community.

These are our workers, our students, our peers, and our community. We need to promote them, especially as policy makers, it's your job to protect their interests. They build the financial system you protect. Enacting this policy would demonstrate a commitment to supporting the well-being and professional development of graduate students, who are integral to the success of universities. They are our lifeline. Support them.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB247.

Thank you,



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