

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland Senate Finance Committee
By Michelle Moyer, Teaching 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 Chair [TBA], Vice Chair [TBA], and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Michelle Moyer and I am a member of the UMBC 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 I work two jobs in addition to my teaching and research responsibilities as a teaching assistant. I do not know of any graduate students who are able to survive comfortably on our teaching stipend alone, despite working more than 50 or 60 hours a week on average. This bill would give us the freedom TO DECIDE if a union would better serve our needs, and give underrepresented students a louder voice. As you know, this does not instantly create a union but would simply provide our student communities with the agency to choose. Additionally, students in other departments are paid substantially more or less than in my department despite working just as hard, which I believe is unequitable.

Sincerely,
Michelle Moyer
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