

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

My name is Livingstone Imonitie 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 I am currently a research and teaching assistant and I put in a lot of work in my job. It would be great to also have a say in the amount of money I receive at the end of the day. There is no University of Maryland without the graduate students but we are the least paid employees. I strongly appeal to you to give the graduate students a voice and a say in the community.

Sincerely,
Livingstone Imonitie
Graduate Assistant
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