

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland Senate Finance Committee
By Prabhat Janamanchi, Research 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,

The cost of living in College Park has risen quite significantly since I started grad school in 2018 and the salary increases provided by the university haven't quite matched that at all. It was barely enough to get by before when I just had to support myself, but now that I'm married it doesn't help at all and it's pretty much impossible for me to even consider supporting a child or daycare expenses. I think this needs to be reconsidered for a university that prides itself as being 'research focused'. Financial stress on top of doing a PhD is not feasible for long-term well being. I hope this brings some positive change to our lives.

Sincerely,
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