

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland Senate Finance Committee
By Alptug Aytakin, 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,

The cost of living in College Park, due to its proximity to District of Columbia, is quite high; the stipend given by the school isn't enough for one to sustain their life while also living in a good neighbourhood and a not bad home. At the current stipend level, living near campus is impossible without leaving in houses where 5+ 25+ year olds are forced to live together; and moreover, the money is only enough if one is living a barely sociable life. The school is not providing enough means to alleviate the already high economic burden on a graduate student's life. They are subpar on their duties, while they are expecting so highly from us.

Sincerely,
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