

Committee: Finance

Testimony on: SB247, State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty, Part-Time Faculty, and Graduate Assistants

Position: Favorable

14 February 2023

Dear Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and the members of the Finance Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports SB247 that grants 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..

Faculty, both full and part-time, and graduate assistants commit much of their lives to their universities, devoting time and energy to it and its students. Their universities are a large part of their lives, so it is logical for these individuals to have agency in their employment. I have seen passion from my professors and other faculty members as a student at the University of Maryland. The cleaning staff for my dorm floor does incredibly taxing work, but still greets us with smiles and good-mornings when we see them. Our professors grade late into the nights and do everything they can to help us succeed, despite often teaching hundreds of students. They deserve the right to have a stake in the operation of their schools, about which they clearly care.

Furthermore, this labor goes towards the betterment of our society through education, which is something everyone should prioritize. These employees have unique understandings of their aspects of their universities, and are best suited to identify problems and solutions pertaining to such. Through collective bargaining, they will have greater power to help these problems, which will create better schools and better students. Additionally, by guaranteeing the right of university faculty to collectively bargain, Maryland would ensure that employees vital for the state’s future see the representation and protection that they deserve for their service. With better pay and benefits secured via collective bargaining, retention rates will likely rise, along with the amount of people seeking employment within the universities, further improving the quality of education being delivered to Marylanders.

With improved job representation and benefits, job satisfaction and loyalty to institutions will grow. This bill will ensure a strong future of educated Marylanders coming from our own universities.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB247.

Thank you,



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