

**Written Testimony Submitted to the  
Maryland Senate Finance Committee  
By Rebecca Quon, former 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 Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Rebecca Quon and I am a member of the University of Maryland, College Park community. I am writing to express my strong support for SB247/HB275, granting collective bargaining rights to faculty, part-time faculty, and graduate assistants within the University System of Maryland.

This issue matters to me personally because as a former Graduate Assistant at UMD and a member of the campus's alumni community, I have deep firsthand knowledge of the importance of the work that graduate assistants do in conducting campus activities from teaching to research and campus administration. In the six years since I graduated, assistantship stipends have hardly increased, and have certainly not kept pace with cost of living increases in that time. It was difficult to make ends then, on \$23,000 per year, and must be even more difficult now. Without collective bargaining rights, graduate assistants do not have adequate means to address issues with their working conditions. I appreciate your consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Quon  
former Graduate Assistant  
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