

**Written Testimony Submitted to the  
Maryland Senate Finance Committee  
By Laura DeMarco, 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,

I live in an area with an extremely high cost of living, and my wages as a graduate assistant are not keeping up. Despite having one of the better-paid positions on campus (by a mile), I often have to skip meals at work because I cannot afford to pay for lunches. I also find myself petrified of my living situation. I can barely afford to live where I do, but moving back with my parents would jeopardize my education. I can't afford to stay, but I have nowhere to go.

Sincerely,  
Laura DeMarco  
Graduate Assistant  
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