

HB0211\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

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**TESTIMONY ON HB0211 – FAVORABLE**

State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Graduate Assistants and Postdoctoral Associates

**TO:** Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0211, State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Graduate Assistants and Postdoctoral Associates

This bill will let persons working in Maryland higher education facilities exercise the right to unionize by providing collective bargaining rights to certain graduate assistants and postdoctoral associates at a system institution, Morgan State University, or St Mary's College of Maryland. It will also permit establishing separate collective bargaining units for the graduate assistants and postdoctoral associates.

Unions help the Department of Labor fulfill its mission to protect the health, safety, wages and retirement security of working Americans. Workers represented by unions feel safer voicing concerns about workplace safety and health, wage theft and other violations of worker protections. Unions help enforce workers' legal rights. Supporting workers as they try to form unions helps the department's ability to carry out its mission. As our Comptroller has stated, "we all do better when we all do better". By providing these rights we can make the moral statement that how we treat workers in Maryland makes that "do better" not just a goal, but a right and a fact.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB#0211.**