

To Whom it may concern;

I Shelby Reynolds find it very hard to make it on my salary. I live with my grandmother and pay her rent because I cannot pay high rent and the utilities that goes with it.

Sincerely
Shelby Reynolds

I Cheryl Duncan am asking for a raise for the employees at St. Mary's College. After I receive my pay check and pay my bills, I barely have enough to put gas in my car for the next two weeks

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter we really need a raise to keep up with the cost of living.

Sincerely
Cheryl Duncan

Dear Senator,

I started in my Position In December of 2016 since then I have I have moved up from a Contractual Employee to a Salary Employee. When I was looking to join an Organization I was looking at in the Long Run where I wanted to see myself. Since being here I have received my Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Since gaining this extra step in my career I Still have hardship in living pay check to pay check with my current salary.

I had my son over a year ago and it is an even more struggle. This is my one and only child and it is very hard in trying to save for my future and even harder to save for his future. I receive Section 8 housing but this is still a strain on me being as though I am the sole provider for my son. I want to be able to purchase a home for us one day but with having such a low Salary I do not seeing this being in my future. Everyone wants to have the American Dream. According to the state I make too much money to receive food supplement benefits with only receiving fifteen dollars a much which does not cover anything. Yes I did receive WIC benefits but this was never enough. Having to buy about 4 cans of formula a month at minimum out of pocket has been a burden. Since he was born premature he has to be on special formula which cost twenty dollars a can each. He is now starting to transition to regular foods but there are still the cost of diapers, medicine, day care cost as well. Not including he is a growing child and is growing more than your normal child. He is only 14 months and is currently in 2T already. It is a struggle trying to pay for food for myself yet alone him as well. I bring Sandwiches every day to eat for lunch because it is cheaper to purchase bread and save my money for my son.

Luckily, I do not have a car payment and have a 2001 vehicle so I only pay for car insurance but that still puts a burden on me. When it comes to any repairs needed on my vehicle it has been thought I am forced to only complete repairs when I can afford to do so. I went for about a month without have heat in my vehicle since I could not pay for someone to look at it. I was forced to drive to work during the winter in very cold temperatures in my car but I still made it here to do my job. I am still trying to save money to purchase tires for my vehicle. My back car handles both broke at the same time and I had to wait to replace these which made it very hard to get my son out the back of the car.

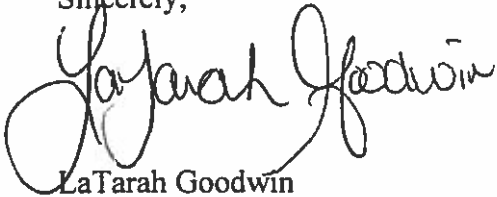
Currently, my electric bill is behind 2 months because I cannot afford to pay this in full. I can only afford a month at a time. On top of having to pay my student loans back. I was forced last year to default on these loans seeing as though I was not making any extra money to contribute. So I am now on a minimum payment plan which in the long run the way it is looking I will never be able to afford to pay this back. With my salary it has me second guessing on was it even worth it to get.

Residing here in St. Mary's county one of the most expensive cost of living places in Maryland makes it hard. I live in an area I never thought I would be living but this is all that I can afford. I want better for myself and my son just like my parents have done for me growing up. Residing in this town being a person of color many people expect you to do the minimum but I have been one of the people that saw more for myself than others see in me. I have pushed past the norms that they expect from us. In my family I am the first to graduate with a Bachelor's

Degree and I would like my salary to reflect what it deserves. In the position I have at the college which I wear many hats of my salary should reflect what I contribute to not only the Students/Parents that I interact with on a daily basis but also my salary as well.

This is why I believe that here at St. Mary's College of Maryland we deserve to receive the Full Wage Increase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LaTarah Goodwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

LaTarah Goodwin

Office Associate 2 Wellness Center

February 14, 2020

Dear Senator,

I write to you today asking you and your colleagues to align St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) with the rest of the agencies in the state. As it currently stands, SMCM only receives funding from the state for half of every COLA or bonus given to the rest of the state agencies. The Governor relies on SMCM to fund the remaining half of said increases, but SMCM fails to do so time and time again.


Because of our proximity to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, the cost of living in St. Mary's County is significantly skewed. There is the false impression that this county is wealthy, primarily because of the hefty base and contractor salaries. Despite the rosy picture the economic statistics present, there is a growing homeless population and the working poor are great in number.

Having grown up in Northern Virginia, where the cost of living is justified by the proximity to Washington, DC and the salaries are more commensurate, I see the disparity clearly. In Virginia, there were many, many choices for employment, a robust transit system, significant walkability throughout, and a plethora of resources for residents. Most of that does not exist in St. Mary's County, yet the cost of living is the same. It is extremely difficult to find rental housing for \$1,000 or less. Many of the employees classified as "staff" at SMCM make *just* enough to NOT qualify for social services assistance and resources in the south end of St. Mary's County are lacking. If you are a single parent, like myself, the challenges are compounded by the additional cost of daycare or after school care, and trying to provide recreational opportunities for my daughter requires money I don't have after rent, utilities, food and gas are paid.

SMCM does not offer wage increases in return for good or better annual performance reviews. Last year was the first time in the 6 years I have worked at SMCM that we received any wage increase at all. Furthermore, because my position is classified as bargaining unit eligible, I had to wait for the Union to fight for what the State of Maryland gave its agencies. Because of the classification of my position and the antagonistic way SMCM leadership interacts with the Union, I am never sure if I will receive any or all of what the Governor awards to state employees.

Please consider fully funding future state wage increases and COLAs for SMCM. Doing so would alleviate the stress and worry of wondering, and would improve overall morale on campus, which is at an all-time low across faculty and staff alike. The employees of SMCM deserve the same COLAs and wage increases that the rest of the state's employees receive.

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration.



Adrienne Dozier
20356 Thompson Orchard Lane
Lexington Park, MD 20653

To Whom it may Concern,

Hi my name is Kathy I've worked
For the College Since 2007, Maryland is an expensive
State to live in, the State has a pricey home
Market as well as above average rent cost,
The Statewide cost of utilities and groceries
aren't any better either. Things can be very
Challenging at times. I've had to ask for
Financial help From Family members at times.
any Raise would be helpful.

Thank you
Kathy Cherk
"House Keeping"

First off I would like to say I thank God for a job. Cause if you give God the glory, he will give you the victory. At the same time I have hardships. The major one is paying my oil bill. At times I am cold and haft to put on three layers of blanket and bundle up instead of just turning on the heat. I try to spare and live under my budget just to make ends meet. I and the rest of my coworkers would appreciate any living wage increase that would help us in a world where the price on everything is going up (rent, gas, oil, etc...)

Thank you much,

Arthur Paul Taylor

Arthur Paul Taylor