

Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SB 658
Supporting

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Graduate Students within the University of Maryland Eastern Shore support the HB 214/ SB 658 bill moving forward and are in accord with graduate assistants who attend all universities within the University System of Maryland.

This 20-year ban has prevented graduate assistants from having a say in how their education and career path are determined. It is time for a change and for graduate assistants to finally have a voice in the terms of their contracts.

Graduate assistants know first-hand what is needed in each institution for students to progress and succeed to make the University System of Maryland better. It is imperative to allow this bill to be passed so GA's can feel not only important but included in decision making that affects their lives.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Simmons
Graduate Student Government President
Doctoral Student, Department of Food and Agricultural Science
Graduate Research Assistant
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Spaulding Hall Room 1105, Princess Anne, MD 21853
Email: jasimmons@umes.edu