

Delores G. Kelley, Chair, 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,

I am writing this testimony to express my support for SB 658. This has been my first year as a graduate student. I left my draining corporate job to pursue my passions while making a positive impact on society through the gift of knowledge and learning. This transition has been entirely difficult as I moved all the way from California and am struggling to make ends meet. My rent, a single bedroom in a home, costs half of my income. My father is kind enough to send me additional funds each month or I wouldn't be able to afford my car insurance for my reliable 2004 Honda Civic. I, and many others, don't have the financial means if an emergency were to happen. We depend on the generosity of our families, friends, and community. I would love to get a second job, but I don't have the time. I do school-related work for 60 hours a week as it is and can barely afford the copays for my mental health care that I go to due to the stress. I hope you take the time to consider that many of us are struggling very much and SB 658 would begin to ameliorate this for many of us. Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Jacob Scocca
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