

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,

My name is Jason Fan, a PhD student in the Computer Science Department. As a former Teaching and Research Assistant (TA/RA) who will need a TAship in the future, I am writing in vigorous opposition to UMD's current position against the unionization of Graduate Assistants. As an RA and TA, my contributions to UMD and my department directly help:

- a) Professors in my department apply for multi-million dollar grants
- b) Professors in my department educate undergraduates with basic computer science skills.

We are reasonably demanding the right to unionize - a right available to almost every workforce in this country. Dean Fetter's archaic statement that we are simply "trainees" who TA and RA as part of "training" demeans us. In fact, I would argue that most PhD students are measured by their research output (which in turn brings millions of dollars in funding to this institution), not our "training" as TAs/GAs.

Our work and contribution is fundamental to the operation of this university. **Peer reviewed** studies directly counter Dean Steve Fetter's claims made in his Jan 28, 2020 testimony (Rogers et al. ILR Review, 2013). **Full-time tenure track faculty (Hal Daume III and Jordan Boyd-Graber) in my department also support unionization, and, unlike UMD's current position, recognize the value of a healthy graduate student workforce.**

Sincerely,

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