

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,

I am writing in support of SB 658 and strongly urge the State of Maryland to recognize the graduate students at public universities as the employees with the same rights as all other state employees. We do an extraordinary amount of work beyond our own studies including assisting research and teaching. The University of Maryland as a Research 1 institution is in a great need of researchers to contribute to the excellence of academics, therefore, we work on different research projects concurrently and stay up late every day to ensure the progress. We are also the teachers who work with undergraduates and graduates on a daily basis, preparing their educational resources, answering their questions in time, leading them to do projects that related to their professions. 20 hours per week is our least working time if you would like to complete these tasks in a satisfactory manner, however, the number of 20 hours is the reality that we have little impact on in the contracts and the basis on which our stipend is calculated. Facing the increasing demand for the work from the university, all graduate employees tend to work beyond 40 and even 60 hours per week. Graduate employees are indispensable part of the university for both researching and teaching, we hope the State of Maryland recognizes this as such by passing SB 658 and finally giving us the rights we deserve as the state employees.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

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