

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,

My name is Sara Ludewig and I am a dual degree Master's student at the University of Maryland, College Park. I also work as an administrative graduate assistant for the university. In my position as an Academic Advisor for Undergraduate Students in the History Department, I provide academic and career advice, administrative support, and general guidance to over 300 students majoring in History and over 100 students minoring in history. My co-advisor and I conduct valuable work to support the academic work of the department. Without our recruitment efforts, career advice, academic advising, course enrollment management, and registration help the department and university would not be able to function. Yet, I am not paid a living wage. As a result of the inadequate pay provided by the university, I work a second job on campus. In addition to my 20 hours a week as a graduate assistant, I also work 10 hours as a student assistant at the University Libraries, and, as a full-time graduate student, I take 9 credit hours of coursework. The work I conduct in both of my positions is both personally fulfilling and of crucial importance to the daily functions of the university. However, the university considers me, and the work I am passionate about, expendable and not worthy of basic rights and protections, including the right to advocate for myself alongside other graduate student assistants.

I urge you to support SB 658, a bill that will provide us with the right to collectively bargain. If graduate students are to be valued members of the university community, at the very least, we should be provided with a voice in our working conditions and in the future of work on campus.

Sincerely,

Sara Ludewig  
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