

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

SB 521
Supporting

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

The argument is simple fairness: the choice to exercise collective bargaining rights provides graduate students the same basic benefits of all other UMD employees. Such rights are standard across numerous state school systems (for example, California, New York, Connecticut, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Michigan, Oregon). Moreover, for non-traditional graduate students, access to benefits such as social security and retirement plans are particularly important as they embark on the multi-year commitment to their advanced degree balanced against the cost to their family and long term finances.

Sincerely,

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