

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,

I am writing to express my support to SB521. I am a second year Ph.D. student in the department of Physics, University of Maryland. Graduate Assistant being underpaid is not an uncommon thing in the United States. While many states in this country had ensured the collective bargaining right for grad students, it is absent for Maryland, one of the most developed states in the US. Without my explanation and evidence, how the labor Union had helped protect the rights of workers is a known fact and there is no reason such right is not protected for graduate workers. As an important group of the university, graduate student workers ensure the quality of teaching and research of the university. We worked hard but we kept struggling to live. During COVID, graduate students had suffer both financially and academically. The rent near College Park is extremely high while cost of living significantly increase during COVID19. The lack of Union also make us incapable to bargain with university for safer environment and compensation for online working environment set like high speed internet or devices for teaching and research. Our right should be protected by the law and therefore we sincerely hope it will be the case. Please accept my sincere apology for sparing your time to read the letter.

Sincerely,

Kwok Lung Fan  
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University of Maryland, College Park  
Physical Science Complex, College Park, MD 20740