

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,

UMD has for many years taken advantage of graduate students, paying them below a living wage. My wage is so low (about \$19k), as a DC resident and UMD student I have lived below the poverty line (of about \$26k). Unlike UMD, DC has recognized the precarious and dangerous position my employer (UMD) has put me in, and has forced the taxpayers and others to pick up UMD's slack in the form of Medicaid and Food Stamps. UMD recognizes neither my health nor my right to eat nor to pursue my studies without an empty stomach. Such a situation is not only irresponsible on UMD's part, but offensive--my labor is valued so low as to be paid measurably beneath the poverty line. Recognize our labor! Recognize us as human beings! Let us afford to eat!

Sincerely,

Kyle Bickoff
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