

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,

Collective bargaining rights are crucial because of the power dynamics between professors and graduate students. Graduate students, especially those pursuing phds or international students, are dependent on their professors for essentially the continuation of their careers. Funding, employment, career opportunities, visas are all funneled through their research advisor. However, if this arrangement becomes abusive, there are no options for graduate students. There is an immediate fear of retribution, of having absolutely no power over the course of one's life other than to forfeit all of the work they've done or to continue suffering the abuse. Collective Bargaining is necessary to give graduate students rights. This is not a serfdom. Graduate students doing work for their professors is a mutually beneficial agreement, and collective bargaining is necessary for this to be formally recognized.

Sincerely,

Astha Singhal  
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