

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 a full time doctoral student in Mathematics Education with two small children. I receive a full stipend along with some extra financial awards from the College of Education and I would not be able to support myself, let alone my children, if it were not for my partner's income (that of a public school teacher).

As a secondary education supervisor, I perform an essential function for the University of Maryland's College of Education. Without my services, the College of Education's MCert Interns (Teacher Candidates) would not receive the support and guidance in their field teaching placements they need to become competent high school math teachers. I also work with several professors on a National Science Foundation-funded research project, and help maintain the Center for Math Education's website, among other responsibilities. This is all in addition to taking 10 (doctoral-level) credit hours of courses per semester and caring for a two-year-old and a six-year-old.

I understand and appreciate the fact that I am receiving part of the compensation for my labor in course work. However, my labor is essential to the functioning of the College of Education and, as a laborer, I have no representation or voice. I am told how many hours my work will take each week--an estimate that frequently falls well short of the mark--and I am not paid enough to live. If it were not for the love and generosity of my partner, I would not be able to continue my career as a graduate student.

If the University of Maryland seeks to uphold and preserve its reputation as a progressive, inclusive, and human-centered institution, it must allow its graduate students to collectively bargain for their labor. If it instead continues to unilaterally extract un- and under-paid labor from its graduate student population, the University will publicly declare its own hypocrisy and the emptiness of its progressive claims.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael William Krell

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