

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,

My department has faced strong criticism over the inequity in graduate assistantship assignments. Some graduate students have been given much easier workloads in comparison to others without much transparency of how these assignments were given or additional compensation for those with larger workloads. Furthermore, the hiring freeze brought on by COVID-19 has placed the department in dire straits with regard to professorial labor. There are now fewer full time professors than ever and there is no chance to replace those who have left. This has placed a disproportionate amount of the undergraduate teaching labor on graduate students, who have little say in negotiating their contracts to account for this additional responsibility.

Sincerely,

Alexander W Miller
Graduate Student, Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies
University of Maryland, College Park
8154 Miner Street, Greenbelt, MD 20770
alexwmiller@mac.com