

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,

As a graduate student assistant at University of Maryland (UMD), I am writing to you to express my full support of the Fearless Student Employees and ally organizations in our efforts to obtain collective bargaining rights.

The labor of graduate assistants is essential to the daily functioning of the university system. We are a cornerstone of the work that makes UMD enduringly renowned for academic and research excellence. As such, it is vital to the continued success of these institutions that graduate student employees are afforded the most basic of rights that guarantee our safety and security.

The endeavor to secure these rights has been waged for years. The financial precarity wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic serves only to underscore the absolute necessity of these basic protections. It is high time that our ongoing efforts are met with their targeted result, one that carries the wide support of graduate student employees, faculty, and campus groups.

Please demonstrate your commitment to the essential labor of graduate student employees.
Pass SB521 to legalize collective bargaining rights for Maryland's graduate assistants.

Sincerely,

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