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**BILL NO.:**           **SB 521**

**TITLE:**                State Personnel – Collective Bargaining

**SPONSOR:**          Senator Kramer

**COMMITTEE:**        Finance

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                February 18, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 521 – State Personnel – Collective Bargaining. This legislation grants collective bargaining rights to graduate students at a system institution, Morgan State University, or St. Mary’s College who is in a teaching, administrative, research, or comparable position, including fellows or postdoctoral interns.

Graduate students within UMD and other graduate school systems serve a vital function to the professors and the institutions at large. These students provide support in research, education, administrative functions, and in running the day-to-day operations of schools and programs. It is because of this that many graduate students are uniquely positioned to inform the school system in their capacity not only as students, but as employees.

County Executive Olszewski is a staunch supporter of the empowerment of workers through collective bargaining rights. Collective bargaining is vital to employees because it allows them to use their numbers as a means of gaining representation in decisions made by an employer that will have consequences for all workers.

Union input does not only benefit workers, but it also provides crucial information to employers that improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and overall morale of the system. Graduate students who are employed in some capacity by UMD, Morgan State, or St. Mary’s College deserve to have a say in the way the University of Maryland system functions, and these institutions will benefit from their input.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 521. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).