Delores G. Kelley, Chair Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair 3 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401 SB 118 Supporting

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Finance Committee,

I support collective bargaining rights for all University of Maryland System graduate students because as young academics-, researchers-, and professionals-in-training, it is crucial to have the right to organize as a unified body.

Collective bargaining empowers the student body to address the financial, administrative, and workplace barriers that can interfere with pursuing the quality, innovative research that we as graduate students contribute to the university community.

Our ability to advocate for appropriate working conditions, pay, and benefits is of the utmost importance to ensure we are able to make the most of our graduate student experience, further enhance our contributions to the academic community, and set a strong foundation for every single student's career.

Sincerely,

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