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,

As a graduate student, I had to struggle a lot on making a living solely based on the stipend that I receive from the TAship. Before the pandemic, I used to live in a shared house but due to the risk of COVID infection and some roommates who have vaccine hesitancy, I chose to live by myself in a studio and this also increased a lot of economic burden. All the stipend I receive (approximately \$1600) goes for the rent for my studio. Many of my dear graduate students friends are also suffering the same situation and hardship.

Sincerely,

Hyeonjin Song Teaching Assistant, Department of Epidemiology University of Maryland, College Park 1001 Spring street, Silver Spring, MD 20910 songhj@umd.edu