

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 am a research assistant at the University of Maryland. I write to you today to urge your support on HB 214 / SB 658.

I request your support as the Maryland State Legislature to allow graduate students the same rights afforded to the employees of any other organization: the right to organize and the right to choose to collectively bargain. We as graduate Assistants, do a lot of work at the University and we request you to give us the right to bargain as a body, just like any other state employee. There is a lot of variation in pay among graduate students and many have taken loans just so that they can continue living healthily. I personally don't receive enough money monthly that I can pay all my bills, I have to work extra hours besides my assistantship and get assistance from my parents to be able make ends meet. Once I pay for my rental, I can't make a healthy living with those remaining money.

I am requesting you to consider supporting the legislation to allow us to bargain collectively and improve how graduate students live while carrying out important research and work at the flagship institution of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Dongze He
Research Assistant, Department of Computer Science
University of Maryland, College Park
Room 3115 8125 Paint Branch Drive, College Park MD 20742, College Park, MD 20742
dxh416@case.edu