

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 personally feel very lucky to be part of a fantastic group in a department that pays its graduate students well, however I know this is not the case for all departments. I have many friends who are currently or were previously part of UMD's graduate school and for those who were not in STEM they were paid significantly less for their TA positions. This was an additional hardship for them and grad school. Whether this should or should not be increased is besides the point. As of now the graduate students can not even collectively bargain for higher pay if they believe they deserve it. This is not the case for other similar employees at many universities and as a state institution it seems ridiculous that they would deny their employees so fundamental in this country.

Sincerely,

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