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,

University of Maryland school systems have been underpaying graduate students and staff. Given the high cost of living in Maryland. it's important that our wage keeps up with inflation. Collective bargaining rights allows us to accomplish this. Covid-19 has caused a rapid increase in housing, groceries, and other everyday expenses; as such, it's becoming increasingly hard to support myself as a graduate student without seeking another source of supplementary income. Please consider allowing collective bargaining rights.

Sincerely,

Rachel Thompson Neuroscience and Cognitive Science University of Maryland, College Park 24 Forest Glen Court, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136 rthomp19@umd.edu