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,

It is vitally important that graduate students and other instructors and students in higher education in the state of Maryland be allowed to collectively bargain. We should not have to give up our civil rights as employees of the state. The work of higher education is more than necessary to out culture, and at this moment even more so. As our world faces now to negotiate pandemic disease as well as enduring problems such as racism and sexism, we need an informed and analytical population to not only address but cope with these challenges. Graduate students are vital to that effort on so many levels. Our world has changed significantly since many of the structures of higher education formed. It's time that work in higher education is the same as any other work in our society. Please support this effort.

Sincerely,

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