

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 submitting this testimony in support of the efforts of the graduate assistants at the University of Maryland to achieve collective bargaining rights.

I have had a 45-year career as a trade unionist: a rank and file member, an elected leader and a staff member in multiple positions and with various unions. I know from personal experience that there is nothing that provides more respect and dignity and protection on the job to working people than collective bargaining. One of my unions, the United Auto Workers, represented graduate student-employees at campuses across the nation. The experience of union membership made their members better able to serve their universities and their students.

Collective bargaining turns a chaotic situation for graduate assistants into a prescribed, livable, predictable and just student-employee experience. The result is a more effective corps of teachers, researchers and workers.

Sincerely,

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