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 support collective bargaining. I work very hard to provide for the state of Maryland by contributing research and teaching efforts towards the University of Maryland at college park. However my efforts Feel unrecognized at times considering the very low pay wage of graduate assistants. It is my duty to uphold the high reputation and dignity of the university however this becomes difficult when we are being burnt at both ends Without proper recognition. The COVID-19 pandemic has extended my degree at least one year as I could not conduct the research necessary to complete my doctoral degree. I am therefore having to back finance and reach out for additional loans to accommodate for basic needs such as housing and food while working over 60 hours a week.

Sincerely,

Lauren Eagan Graduate Assistant University of Maryland, College Park 1311 13th St. NW UNIT 406, Washington, DC 20005 Laureneagan6@gmail.com