

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,

When I first received my offer from UMD I was exhilarated. Getting my PhD from an institution of that caliber was really important for me to flourish and develop professionally. I soon realized though that my stipend doesn't go very far. From the 19k that I started at, I had to pay taxes, approx. \$700 for the most affordable health insurance plan, \$1100 for registration fees, that kept going up every year, and \$350 for parking. I was literally left with \$15,000 to pay rent in College Park, that was close to \$1k/month. I ended up having \$3k left for my yearly expenses. AT a meeting with our dept's chair we were told that the university advocates that our tuition remission counts as salary. I interestingly enough, the university considers us high-paid employees while we are barely able to make ends meet. At the same time we are expected to perform at the highest level to our students, who expect high-quality education from their "professors". I support bargaining rights so the University will prioritize its people who work on a daily basis to provide education to their students. That is why universities exist, for educational purposes, not to spend millions on new football stadiums, or new hotel complexes where its own employees cannot afford to approach.

Sincerely,

Konstantinos Pozoukidis
Graduate Assistant, ENGL
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