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Patrick Moran - President

**Testimony**  
**HB 751 – State Personnel - Collective Bargaining**  
**Appropriations**  
**February 15, 2022**  
**Support**

AFSCME Council 3 supports the passage of HB 751. This legislation would grant collective bargaining rights to graduate students at institutions within the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, or St. Mary's College of Maryland who are a teaching, administrative, or research assistants, or in comparable positions, fellows, or postdoctoral interns.

AFSCME Council 3 represents employees throughout our higher education system. We know that graduate assistants are among the hardest working and *least appreciated* members of our public higher education system. Despite the high level of responsibility for educating Maryland's students, graduate assistants often have to battle for basic benefits such as stipends, intellectual property rights or family leave.

It is time that graduate assistants be afforded the same collective bargaining rights as other higher education workers in Maryland. And let us be clear, these are "workers" – not simply "students." We thank the sponsor for bringing this legislation forward, and ask for a favorable report of HB 751.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.  
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.  
800.492.1996