

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,

Unionization does not hurt the relationship between graduate students and their faculty supervisors; it makes it a professional relationship. Faculty and university administrators who claim that if graduate students unionize it will change the fundamental "mentoring" relationship between graduate students and faculty ignore the fact that graduate students at some of the most elite graduate programs in the world are unionized and have been for many years. Moreover, graduate students at University of Maryland are woefully underpaid. UMD ranks lowest in the Big Ten, when salaries are adjusted for cost of living. It is a blot upon the reputation of UMD that many of its graduate students are forced to live at or below the poverty line just to get graduate training.

Sincerely,

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