

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 a graduate student at UMD-College Park because i wanted to further my education in the field of education. my purpose is to dismantle systemic inequities in the education system in the U.S. I am also a graduate assistant for the university because it helps with the expensive tuition for graduate school. unfortunately, i am struggling financially—consistently—due to the low pay for graduate assistants. graduate assistants are not taken seriously, are seen as replaceable, and are severely underpaid. we are employees of the university of maryland system like other staff and faculty. we have lives, families, children, and responsibilities as well. we are people trying to live and contribute to society while we are in graduate school. we deserve the right to collective bargaining.

Sincerely,

Tierra Merritt
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