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County Executive

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BILL NO.: **SB 118**

TITLE: State Personnel – Collective Bargaining

SPONSOR: Senator Kramer

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 27, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 118 – State Personnel – Collective Bargaining. This legislation grants collective bargaining rights to graduate students at a University of Maryland system institution, Morgan State University, or St. Mary’s College who is in a teaching, administrative, research, or comparable position.

Graduate students within University of Maryland system and other graduate schools are vital to the functioning of institutions at large, including to the success of undergraduate students. These students assist the institution and its professors through research, education, administrative functions, and in running the day-to-day operations of schools and programs. Students serving in this capacity have the unique ability to inform the institution in their capacity not only as students, but as employees.

County Executive John Olszewski is an avid supporter of the empowerment and rights of workers through collective bargaining. Collective bargaining is vital for employees as it provides them with the opportunity to gain representation in decisions made by an employer that will have consequences for the system at large. This is especially vital for graduate students as they are an increasingly vital component of educational institutions.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 118. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.