

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,

Graduate student workers are workers, and have the same needs and rights of employees in other settings: healthcare, time off for illness, housing, fair compensation, etc. But because we're treated by the law as students first, we often have trouble fulfilling those basic rights. For example, we often don't find out about our teaching assignments until the last minute - and that can make simple problems like securing a lease on an apartment a nightmare when we don't have proof we'll be employed in a few months or any way of providing evidence of income. (I had problems with this just last summer.) Classifying GAs correctly - as employees - and supporting our right to collective bargaining rights would go a long way towards addressing this kind of unstable, precarious arrangement.

Sincerely,

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