

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,

It is absurd how GAs' breaks (e.g., lunch breaks, sick leaves) are not officially guaranteed in the GA policy. Because GAs are not recognized as employees and we have unclear job expectations, I literally had to work from 9am to 5pm having only 20 minutes of break one day, and I was asked to make up my work hours when I requested sick leaves. My supervisors said that I should take my lunch break time aside from my work hours, as I do not have employment rights. Also, there was one day when the university sent out an email to inform the university employees to take a break. My supervisor mentioned that I should not take a break from work because the university system only sent out that email to university employees. I did reach out to the school ombudsperson to seek help, but he essentially told me that other GAs are going through worse times (and he did not seem surprised by all the episodes I shared with him). It is disheartening that GAs cannot have basic employment rights and yet are asked to do so much work.

Sincerely,

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