

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,

Despite being the backbone of higher education and research, graduate students are not even considered employees. It would be near impossible for one professor to run a 200 person lecture, meaning graduate students do vital work in their field, and therefore deserve the appropriate status and ability to make change. The bulk of cutting-edge research is done with the work of graduate students, yet being nothing more than mere 'students' does not fit our description. Graduate students must be given the proper title of employees, and the right to improve working conditions. Given graduate students collective bargaining rights.

Sincerely,

Erika Hoffman
Teaching Assistant, Department of Astronomy