

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 urge you to support this legislation which grants collective bargaining rights to graduate employees at institutions of higher education in Maryland.

While most of us are only paid a stipend for a “twenty-hour workweek”, in reality most of us put in far more than 40 hours of doing University-related tasks on a weekly basis. As people working for the University, I request your support as the Maryland State Legislature to allow graduate students the same rights afforded to employees in any other organization: the right to organize and the right to choose to collectively bargain.

Largely due to our current ban on collective bargaining, graduate students are currently severely underpaid giving the cost of living in the College Park/ greater DC area. This a) reduces the likelihood that the most outstanding candidates will choose UMD, and b) makes it so only graduate students with wealthy support nets can attend UMD. In order to remedy these problems, I ask that you support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Kristen Regenauer
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