

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 have been a graduate teaching Assistant for almost 4 academic semesters here at UMD. As compared to other graduate students in the east coast and or even the Midwest, UMD's remuneration for graduate students is paltry and cannot even support living expenses. Maryland is a very expensive state. When I was in the Midwest, I could afford to live on 1600 a month. I can't say same for Maryland. Considering that we teach undergraduate students, and yet we can't even afford to pay rent with a remainder to feed, this shows our legislators could help secure the higher education if they vote for us to have a bargaining right. I think if the state would like to encourage people to pursue graduate studies to form the manpower base of the state and the nation, our honorable legislators must endeavor to help us. Otherwise, I daresay graduate education in the next few years would only be the preserve of the rich or those who have access to student loans.

Sincerely,

Divine Aboagye
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