

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,

In my experience, the university treats graduate students like students when it is convenient, and employees when it is convenient, always in such a way that benefits the institution rather than the students. As an example, the university treats 20-hour per week graduate assistants as “full-time,” because the rest of the time they are “students,” and then claims that their nominal hourly pay rate is quite decent, even though it is barely, if even, livable in the area. Graduate students are the lifeblood of a research university, and the institution should support them with a true living wage. If the institution cannot or will not do so of their own accord, then graduate students ought to be able to organize on their own in order to obtain the support they deserve and need. For these reasons, I support collective bargaining rights.

Sincerely,

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