

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 support collective bargaining rights because the current administration's practices for determining our cost of living are ignorantly inaccurate at best and intentionally skewed to depress wages below livable conditions at worst. While I'd like to give them the benefit of the doubt, I am too hungry to do so. Many of our graduate students rely on mutual aid, food pantries, and a 2nd or 3rd job on top of their coursework and GA work to survive. We're living in moldy basements and apartments full of bedbugs. We're working longer hours than our contracts allow with absolutely no recourse available. I currently work an additional 25 hours per week outside of my GA contract, while attempting to take 4 courses and work on my own research. We're on a fast track to burning out the 'best and brightest' that the university both brags about and depends on. The current system is unsustainable, and the strategy of throwing spare nickels at us when other universities start to strike can only last so long.

Sincerely,

Connie Siebold
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