

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,

My name is Tifanee McCaskill. I am a second year PhD student in the Urban Education specialization for the Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership program at UMD. I am also a teaching assistant and research assistant working 20 hours a week who, like many others, is providing testimony to this committee.

In this current economy, graduate assistants are not being paid a living wage. In order to produce outstanding scholarship in addition to assisting the work of the excellent instructors and researchers at College Park, we must be compensated reasonably. If College Park intends on remaining an institution known for supporting equitable treatment for everyone, they must consider equitable compensation for all workers, including Graduate Assistants. As a Black woman, I will only continue to give my time and effort to a school that honors me for what I am worth. If College Park wants to remain an attractive destination for the next generation of Black scholars, then it should take a stand and support any improvement in the working conditions of graduate students. The time is always right to do what is right. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tifanee McCaskill
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