

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,

There is no reason as to why your graduate students, who are some of the most vulnerable during the pandemic, should even have to explain why we don't deserve to be exploited and deserve to have control over our means of production. Not to mention we have been exploited while risking our lives because schools are open with the highest numbers seen of COVID-19. Some of your graduate students study the effects of structural violence, commodification, infectious diseases, and all the issues associated with a capitalistic mindset. It is an utter failure when you encourage us to study these things without looking at your perpetuation of the problems we face and deal with every single day. Without graduate assistants, most schools would fall apart. We strive in our own classes to have to also manage classes of our own while struggling to eat. It is not only UMD's job but UMD's duty as said in their mission statement to provide us excellent service....hold up your end of the deal. The time has come.

Sincerely,

Melani Harden
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