

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,

The yearly stipend from UMD is relatively lower than similar universities such as Ohio State, UT Austin, etc., while living cost based on the location of UMD is vastly higher than Columbus or Austin.

This situation makes the student employees experience huge financial difficulties, especially for international students.

One example would be: the housing cost. Normally a 1B1B apartment in Columbus would cost for about 1000 dollars, while apartment with the same quality in the metro DMV area would cost 1800 to 2500, which is dreadfully higher than Columbus.

I would like the university to also consider that during the pandemic, student employees are facing the stress from academics, family, workloads, and future job market. Living in such difficult situation has impacted my personal mental health severely, and I am seeking medical therapy at the beginning of 2022.

Sincerely,

Liangjun Shi
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