

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,

Collective Bargaining is essential to fair, equitable, and inclusive practices in higher education. As a fourth year PhD candidate, I have struggled to come up with rent, money for groceries, and gas while engaging in some of the most cutting edge research that directly benefits society. Without collective bargaining, higher education may well see brilliant scholars and minds choose different career paths because the money and benefits are unable to provide a livable wage in an area with a high cost of living.

At this time, I am forced to take on additional employment so I can simply pay my bills. Doing so puts undue stress on my mental and physical wellbeing. I live in continual fear of not being able to make ends meet. This is a solvable problem if the State were to grant us Collective Bargaining rights.

As a Graduate Assistant, I teach classes alongside faculty (contingent and permanent) who receive significantly more compensation per class hour than I do. This is no way to encourage students to pursue higher education and continue to do the research that is essential building a healthier, more robust society.

Sincerely,

Lindsey R. Barr  
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