

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 am an Administrative Assistant at the University of Maryland, College Park campus, and I wholeheartedly support SB0118. I am incredibly proud of my school and position in the School of Public Policy, and value the work I do in my office. Graduate assistants play critical roles in the research, academics, and administrative functioning of universities, but the University of Maryland takes advantage of graduate assistants, using them in place of hiring real staff while denying us the rights of full employees.

While I take pride in the work I do in my position, there are currently five graduate assistants (including myself) in my office, with only one staff member to provide services to thousands of students. The university uses us as a stop-gap measure to delay hiring the additional staff who's roles we fill. Meanwhile, we do not receive enough salary to even pay our rent. As a mid-career adult who left the workforce to get my higher degree, if I did not have the luxury of having a savings account (which the majority of graduate assistants do not), I would never be able to make a living. The compensation we receive could possibly suffice for an undergraduate student, but not for adults with mortgages, children, debts, and life expenses to pay.

I support SB0118 and the right for graduate assistants to collectively bargain for fair wages and equitable treatment as employees of the University of Maryland. I implore the committee members to support this bill and workers rights for graduate students in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Sarah Campbell  
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