

**SB 247 Testimony: Favorable
State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty, Part-Time Faculty, and
Graduate Assistants**

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I write as a University of Maryland alum and Baltimore City resident to **request your strong support for SB 247** – long-overdue legislation that would grant collective bargaining rights to graduate student workers, contingent faculty, and full-time faculty working in the University System of Maryland.

Like so many Marylanders you've been hearing from, I was shocked to learn the right to collectively bargain is prohibited by state law for USM educators in these categories. This is outrageous, regressive, and frankly embarrassing for this UMD alum. Fortunately, the General Assembly is in a position this session to repair this failure.

I urge you to issue a favorable report on SB 247, and to do everything in your power to ensure this bill makes it out of committee in the strongest possible form this session. Untenable working conditions in the higher education sector are increasingly recognized as a growing national problem, with especially sobering implications for the future of public institutions. We're past the point of pretending these employees don't need and deserve the same right to organize as workers in any other economic sector.

Every year this legislation fails to make it to a floor vote marks a failure of the General Assembly to recognize and act on the importance of fundamental labor rights. The passage of a strong SB 247 would do right by our workers, our students, and our state. Please support this legislation – your constituents are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Muniak
3722 Chestnut Ave
Baltimore, MD 21211