

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
By Elyshia Aseltine, Associate Professor
HB 493**

**State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty, Part-Time Faculty, and Graduate Assistants
February 9, 2024**

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

My name is Elyshia Aseltine and I am an Associate Professor of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice at Towson University. There are many decisions that occur without meaningful faculty input, resulting in poorly researched, ill-fated, and unfair decisions that impact faculty lives and, as a result, those of students on our campuses. While many of our campuses have "shared governance" structures, decisions made by these groups are often symbolic and, when not, easily overruled by campus leadership. Increasingly, faculty are reliant on the benevolence of campus leadership when it comes to decision making about teaching-related decisions, workload considerations, faculty performance evaluations, instructional technologies, etc. As a faculty, we seek the opportunity to determine for ourselves if unionization makes sense for our campuses. Right now, that conversation is not even a possibility. This is deeply troubling for many of us. Please support our ability to have such a conversation.

Sincerely,
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*This testimony has been submitted on behalf of this individual by the University of Maryland Graduate Labor Union (GLU) and the Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (UMD AAUP).
Please contact us at mail@umdgradworkers.org or umdaaup@gmail.com if you have any questions.*