

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
By Amanda Lazar, Assistant 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 Amanda Lazar and I am as assistant professor at the University of Maryland in the College of Information Studies, where I have worked for 6 years. I call on this committee to issue a favorable report to this Bill. While the state grants collective bargaining to most state employees, faculty in Maryland are missing this right.

I enjoy teaching and doing research at UMD. My dean and colleagues are wonderful, and we are well compensated for our work. But I know that my experience is not universal, and that things shift as certain areas gain popularity and others hibernate. I am concerned that faculty do not have a real form of governance and without this, we can be terminated or have our jobs change (e.g., increased class sizes to the extent that students are no longer able to benefit from our attention) without our collective voice informing processes and policies.

Especially now, it is clear that collective bargaining is a powerful way for workers to preserve rights in a shifting economic world. Thank you for your support.

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.*