

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee**

By Diana Marsh, Asst. 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 Diana Marsh and I am an Asst. Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, where I have worked for 4 years. I call on this committee to issue a favorable report to this Bill. The state already grants the right of collective bargaining towards nearly every other state employee, as well as the faculty at our community colleges and the non-academic workforce at our four-year institutions. It is clear that this right should be extended to all higher ed workers in Maryland.

I teach in archival and museum studies, and regularly teach courses with 30 to 40 Masters students aspiring to become archivists, museum professionals, and digital collections specialists. I often tailor these courses each semester to meet the needs of these graduate and professional students, and also create complex applied projects for course assignments so that students learn real-world skills and build their resumes. Despite the high numbers of students working at the graduate level and the complexity of assignments for Masters students, we are not offered TAs or other assistance with running, organizing, or grading in such classes.

Enacting this bill into law can improve class sizes, and also ensure that we attract the best students and faculty to our growing programs in this important national cultural complex.

The right to collective bargaining is the best method of ensuring that employees have a voice in constructing conditions that govern our workplaces and therefore Maryland's teaching environment. Many other public higher ed institutions in the nation enjoy this right; I therefore call for a favorable report to this Bill.

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.*