

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Appropriations Committee
By Jermain McDermott, Teaching Assistant
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 Jermain McDermott and I am a teaching assistant at the University of Maryland at College Park in the Department of Mathematics where I have worked for 6 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. We need to democratize the work environment, the people deserve a say in how things are run.

Sincerely,
Jermain McDermott, Teaching Assistant
Department of Mathematics
University of Maryland, College Park
7901 Regents Drive, College Park, MD 20740
jermainmcdermott@gmail.com

*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.*