

**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland Senate Finance Committee
By Gregory Babic, Graduate Research Assistant
SB0823**

**State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Faculty, Part-Time Faculty, and Graduate Assistants
March 7, 2024
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

In the approximately 6 months that I have been a graduate worker at UMCP, it has been made crystal clear to me by the university why we as graduate workers are in dire need of a union. I have had to deal with seemingly constant payroll mistakes, incompetence on the always changing health insurance rules, and an incredibly bloated university bureaucracy. But these issues pale in comparison to housing. All the housing around UMCP is either grossly overpriced or cheap and very low quality. My current situation is paying \$1000/month and I have 5 housemates. It is unacceptable that we are paid so poorly that that is the only affordable option for most graduate workers at UMCP.

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 info@umdgradworkers.org or umdaaup@gmail.com if you have any questions.*