

Delores G. Kelley, Chair, Chair  
Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

SB 658  
Supporting

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am a graduate student and graduate assistant at the University of Maryland. I write to you today to urge your support on HB 270.

I request your support as the Maryland State Legislature to allow graduate students the same rights afforded to the employees of any other organization: the right to organize and the right to choose to collectively bargain. We as graduate Assistants, do a lot of work at the University and we request you to give us the right to bargain as a body, just like any other state employee. There is a lot of variation in pay among graduate students and many have taken loans just so that they can continue living healthily. I personally don't receive enough money monthly that I can pay all my bills, I have to work extra hours besides my assistantship to be able make ends meet.

I am requesting you to consider supporting the legislation to allow us to bargain collectively and improve how graduate students live while carrying out important research and work at the flagship institution of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Shao-Peng Chen  
Reliability Engineering  
Research Assistant  
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