

Byron Jones Testimony

Thank you committee for hearing my testimony today. My name is Byron Jones. I'm 31 years old and I have lived in Baltimore my whole life. After dealing with what can feel like an unfair court system, I know that there's hope for guys like myself thanks to the bail diversion program.

Being placed in America Works presented me with tremendous opportunities to better spend my time and find employment. We began training quicker than I ever would have expected. The staff was helpful and understanding of my situation. They managed my expectations and gave me really important information on how to proceed with my job search process. After looking over my resume and making sure I was mentally prepped, we discussed job opportunities. I wanted to get something quickly to start putting money in my pocket. They knew the exact place for me.

After interviewing with Holly Poultry I was hired within a week. I have been working there ever since and have been very successful. I am a forklift operator who takes pride in his work. I'm excited about the future and feel confident that I am on the right track.

I am certain that this program and ones like it are exactly what the city of Baltimore needs to better assist the community and give others hope. This experience changed my outlook on life when I was feeling like I was at the end of my rope. Young people like myself need employment opportunities and sometimes it can be difficult when you are connected in some way to the justice system. We all have times when we struggle and need assistance. America Works has been that for me. I hope they get the chance to be that for others.