

## **Brandon Boone SB574 Letter of Support**

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brandon Boone and I have been lucky enough to experience the America Works program. I was placed there after a series of unfortunate events that led me to be arrested and detained for a short period of time. I myself do not have the support of a loving mother or father and most of my friends are dead or in jail. I'm a young black male that has lived in Baltimore my whole life and I consider myself lucky because I could have just as easily been a statistic. The America Works program helped me find employment and taught me how to better manage my time. I learned to dress for success and maintain a positive attitude even though things seemed uncertain. People like Adam Schutzman and other America Works employees help save lives on a daily basis whether they realize it or not. Sometimes this can be a hopeless city and we need more motivators like the ones at America Works. I will never forget how they rang the bell in celebration for me when I got a job placement at Pasha Auto. An increase in morale can dictate better decisions for days to come as you often don't want to disappoint the only people rooting for you.

People at America Works didn't just help me get a job; they tried to help better my life, assisted with transportation, and even stayed in contact to this day. I think every city should have an America Works program, especially the poverty stricken ones as I am proof that the program provides more jobs and less crime for the city. On my graduation day I saw many of my peers who looked like me, and had made a few poor decisions just as all humans do. We all learned from those mistakes in some way as we maintained employment and graduated from the program. Out of my class, I believe about 3 graduates passed away before they could celebrate

their graduation day. Even still many of their parents came and received support and applause from us other graduates and the America Works team. They thanked America Works for helping and we all encouraged each other. Even though many of us were strangers, we all have experienced some type of loss whether family, employment, or just plain happiness.

As an alternative to jail, America Works partners with some agencies that can teach trades and give people long lasting careers, not just temp jobs. I thought the job at Pasha Auto would be horrible but it turned out to be one of the most fun jobs I ever had. I helped load and deliver new cars to and from the port, did inventory and several other tasks but the most fun was driving the cars, of course. America Works listened to what I was trying to do in life and placed me somewhere they thought suitable and they turned out to be correct. All the jobs I had picked for myself in the past were bad for me. If I could say two things to the America Works team of Baltimore City I would say thank you so much and ask that you please help others just as you have helped me. You have made a long lasting impact in my life and I will always speak highly of the program.

Yours Truly,

Brandon Boone

Baltimore City, MD