

March 17, 2010

To: **COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS**

From: John Barrett, Jr., Janitor, Capital Cleaning

Re: **Senate Bill No. 422 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES' PILOT PROGRAM"**

My name is John Barrett, Jr. I am 26 years old, I live in my own apartment in Middletown, CT and I work for Capital Cleaning at the Department of Transportation headquarters in Newington. I have been employed as a Janitorial worker since November of 2007. This job has provided me with opportunities to live independent of Federal and State Assistance. Before I was employed at Capital Cleaning, I was eligible for Social Security Disability Benefits, Rent Subsidy from DMHAS and Food Stamps.

Now and most importantly, because I have this job I am able to pay my rent and other bills on time and I am able to be a productive part of society despite having a disability. Less than 5 years ago no one, including myself, could have predicted that I would be in the situation that I am in now. Then, I was living in an institution in New York where everything I did was controlled. I had to earn my privileges like going out to eat and even having the freedom to watch TV. Today I have more choices and a greater sense of self respect than I've ever had in my life. I know I am a quite capable man and this program has given me the chance to prove it. As a member of the Union (32SBJ) I am receiving a living wage and some benefits, which I did not get from my previous employers.

For the past 2 years I have felt more independent and I am allowed make my own choices and options of how I want to live my life. I have made friends at work with my fellow co-workers, many of whose lives have also been positively affected by being part of this pilot project. Thank You for your time this morning.