

- Date of hearing: Monday, March 11, 2013 at 11:00am
- Committee name: (COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS)
- John H. Barrett Jr., Janitor, Capitol Cleaning.
- Subject Testimony for the Record *“AN ACT MAKING THE JANITORIAL WORK PILOT PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY OR A DISADVANTAGE PERMANENT”*

My name is John Barrett, Jr. and I am a Janitor for Capitol Cleaning. I am **testifying for the record on S.B. 761 “AN ACT MAKING THE JANITORIAL WORK PILOT PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY OR A DISADVANTAGE PERMANENT.”**

My name is John Barrett, Jr. I am 29 years old, I live in my own apartment in Middletown, CT and I work for Capitol Cleaning at the Department of Transportation headquarters in Newington. Futures Inc. assisted me in being placed in this job through the Qualified Partnership program and therefore 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 6 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 5 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.