

Chairman Dolan and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Shalanda Raglin, I would like to speak a little about the program assisting funds that allowed me succeed today provided through Assist to Succeed Dental program.

Roughly 3 years ago I gained a passion in wanting to help others correct their smile, so I looked up schools to accomplish my goal of wanting to become a dental assistant. I was referred to Assist to Succeed and reached out to Kindra, once provided with all of my options which were to obtain a bank loan for funding of the program, or try to obtain a grant from the government through WIOA, I knew at that moment I wouldn't be able to attend the program, however I never gave up. Once again I just so happened to reach out to Kindra to see when the next class would be coming up and was going to see if I had any other options. At that time Kindra advised me that there was a funding program who would provide me a loan (RLP/Revolving Loan Plan) that would cover the program for me, with the exception I made monthly payments after graduation until it was paid off.

I tried the grant option through WIOA again just to see if I could secure the grant due to not wanting to take any loans with previously filing bankruptcy and wanting to stay clear from any additional debt. I however did not qualify for the grant due to being over income. I accepted the loan option through RLP/Revolving Loan Program and secured that, which that process was very easy and quick for me. I was able to start the course and fully complete it, and now starting my career as a dental assistant in an awesome office maybe a month after graduation. Had it not been for the RLP program I would never be where I am today within my career. I think this funding program will help a lot of potential people who are wanting to pursue a career in the dental field through Assist to Succeed if it remains the same. It got me out of a dark place in my life.

Sincerely,

Shalanda Raglin