

Brandon Wallace- Member of Columbus Works, Inc.
Senate General Government Budget Committee
Interested Party Testimony
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House Bill 110

Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Senate General Government Budget Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address my support of the Columbus Works amendment to House Bill 110.

Maxed out credit cards, towering student loan debt and scarce opportunities had me at the knife's edge of poverty in 2019. In a small town, after college it was difficult to find a sustainable career. I had to find support with my Uncle Tony and family who graciously allowed me to stay in their home in Columbus while I looked for work. This eventually led me to Linden Life Fellowship and one of their members, John Rule, handed me a flyer for Columbus Works which would be a defining moment in turning my life around.

Columbus Works was the opportunity I needed to get ahead in life. Attending the classes really helped me build confidence and gain skills to find employment. After completing the classes Art Gray (Columbus Works Coach) challenged me to send three applications out a day for two weeks. On the second week I saw an opening for Homeside Financial and I knew it was the job for me. Ironically I was sitting in the office with Art when they called me and accepted the job that day!

I am grateful for New Hope Behavioral Counseling. The time spent with him help me build strategies to mental battles and become more mentally healthy. As well I am grateful to Scott Henderson (Personal Financial Coach at Columbus Works) for helping me craft a budget. I have demolished my credit card debit and have the highest credit score I've ever had.

I am eternally grateful for the staff and administration of Columbus Works even during a pandemic I've been able to not only survive but thrive in these uncertain times.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story.