



## TESTIMONY

Testimony of Raymond Barnett  
H. D. Woodson Student Testimony  
April 10, 2008

Good afternoon councilmen/chairman, my name is Raymond Barnett. I am a senior at H.D. Woodson Senior High School in NE quadrant of Washington, DC. I am here on behalf of one of LifeSTARTS Youth and Family Services after school programs called Literacy Loop housed at HD Woodson. The Literacy Loop program is committed to improving the reading skills of elementary school students, grade three through six. I joined this program in the summer of 2006 tutoring fourth grade students. At the end of that summer, the host site Merritt Educational Center closed. Our program was then moved to Drew Elementary School. During the transition I was proud to see one of my tutees from the summer, who was excited to hear our program was moving to her new school. I continued to work with her and she is currently in the sixth grade. I gradually started to see that the pace of her reading along with her understanding of the materials began to improve, increasing each time we met.

The Literacy Loop program doesn't only help the students being tutored but it also helps the tutors. It gives me a place to be after school instead of hanging out on the corner. Most children learn better from someone closer to their age that they can relate to. It also instills a great deal of pride in me to know that I am personally helping the up and coming youth. This program has taught me patience, along with strategies about dealing with children. Also it has helped me remember multiple things I had forgotten since elementary school and has even taught me things I never learned.

Thank you.

