



TESTIMONY

Testimony of Lewis Dixon

Sasha Bruce Youthwork/Independent Living Program

DC Alliance of Youth Advocates

Good Afternoon Council Chair and other members of the council. My name is Lewis Dixon. I am seventeen years old. I am speaking on behalf of the Sasha Bruce Independent Living Program and I wanted to address the situation of teen/youth homelessness. I came to Sasha Bruce as a resident at the crises shelter. From there I was able to transfer to the Independent Living program where I have been living for two years.

Since being at the ILP I have been able to get my first job and save money; and also finish high school to attend college in the fall. Before coming to the Independent Living Program I was experiencing a lot of difficulties with my mother and the court system. I kept getting in trouble, and being defiant. The ILP has taught me a lot. I feel that we really need other programs like this because there are many limits to the opportunities for our youth because they have no where to go and look for other means to survive which are often dangerous and unhealthy.

Thank you for your time, and I hope my testimony will help other teens who are in the situation I used to be in. I am happy to answer any questions.

