
JOB CORPS

CAREERS BEGIN HERE

**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Hearing on HB 2455 Jan 23, 2020
Written & Oral Testimony in Support of HB 2455
on behalf Flint Hills Job Corps
by Arros Neyman, Graduating Job Corps Student – Cement Masonry / Welding**

The Honorable Sean Tarwater and Members of the Committee,

I am a student graduating from Flint Hills Job Corps on January 24, 2020. I have completed certifications in Cement Masonry and Welding during the 14 months that I have been enrolled at Job Corps.

I came to Job Corps from Eudora, Kansas with a five-year-old daughter. The Flint Hills Job Corps Center is unique in that it allows for parents to live on center with their children. During the workday I was able to focus on my career pathway and learning the skills I need to obtain certifications while my daughter was taken care of at the Child Development Center on campus.

Before entering Job Corps, I spent two years trying to independently support myself in the workforce but I kept running into dead-ends or jobs with no room for advancement. Now that I have certifications and on-the-job experience I am able to easily obtain a job with higher pay and a better working environment. Additionally, I'm actively becoming an entrepreneur and in the process of starting my own business with concrete and house-building.

HB 2455 is important because it incentivizes private businesses to hire and work with Job Corps students and graduates. The Work-Based Learning component gives students an edge in the workforce and also helps employers get a feel for the student before offering them a full-time job. This period of time is essential to helping my peers experience an on-the-job environment while they are still able to learn and improve their skills at Job Corps without negatively impacting the employer or their own work-history.

Job Corps has helped my family get to a position where we can pursue goals, empowered us to dream big, and support our daughter as she begins her own path to discovering her dreams.