

## Donna Thornton Testimony

Good afternoon Senators. My name is Donna Thornton. I work at Walter Reed Medical Center. I've been there 23 years. And I have a testimony to say. I used to live out in Forest Haven when I was a little girl. I had a place that I always wanted to go to. It was my swing. And I always swung on my swing and asked God to help me find my way. So I asked him, I said God, I want to say something to you. I asked from the first time, I asked, how can we get out of the institution?

Somebody said that we have to work our way up. And I asked this person, how can you work your way up? She said, you have to go from the bottom up to the top. I said ok.

After that, I went and I asked another question to Him. I asked my Father, I said, there's a couple things I want to ask you. First I wanted to get out of the institution, I want to get married, I want to have some children. And then I asked Him, can we all get out of the institution? Can everybody get out of the institution?

Then after that, I have a son. His name is Ricardo Thornton Jr. He graduated from high school. He didn't get there to college but I was praying for him to go to college. Now he's married, he has three kids. One is Daniel, he just turned ten. We got one little baby girl, her name is Rita, just turned one years old. And we got a two-year-old baby girl, and her name is Lia. I hope that I could see them grow up and go to college. Because I didn't go to college, but I want to see them go to college just like everybody else. Thank you very much.