

Madame Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Adam Mendez and I live in Helena. When I was asked to come and speak today, I felt it was not only an honor but my duty. I am the Executive Chef at the Waterford. Although the Waterford has been very supportive of this program in the past, this is my first experience with Helena Industries.

Troy walked through the doors of the Waterford in August. He was hired as a line server [assisting the chefs during serving hours]. Today, Troy has progressed to a Prep cook and has aspirations of continuing to learn and grow. Troy is a valuable asset to the Waterford. Troy has many ideas on how to do things and even questions my approach from time to time. This is great because it shows that Troy is developing confidence in regards to his job and how to approach each task. This was not always the case and I am almost certain that Troy would never have walked through these doors without the help and guidance of Helena Industries. Troy's job coach has been in close contact with the chefs with whom he works. If there is ever a concern, it is quickly talked about and dealt with before anything can become of it.

I would like to thank the committee for their support of programs like the one at Helena Industries. We currently have two employees working at the Waterford from Helena Industries. Programs like these help people with disabilities get jobs in the community. I will continue to use Helena Industries in the future with complete confidence. Thank you.