

Dear members of Congress and staff,

Hello! My name is Yasmine Harrison. Most people call me Yassy. 😊

I am a junior at Bethel High School in Hampton, Virginia. I love my school!

I love algebra, a-na-to-my, geo-gra-phy, reading, and travel.

I just went to Ireland.

I am on student council, am eighteen, and am a registered voter.

I am an artist who has taken private lessons since I was five.

I have presented to new teachers, parents, and school leaders - including my superintendent.

I made honor roll last year. I work hard at school so that one day I can have a good job.

One day I want to live on my own, with a roommate, or get married. I want to be independent and strong like the people on "Born this Way".

I have Down syndrome. Sometimes I need more time, a little patience, and some support.

This summer I was so happy to have an internship with the City of Hampton. I also

had a job coach named Amanda who helped me.

I did office work in the Human Resources department. The Director was my boss. I scanned documents and entered them onto spreadsheets in the computer. I did some labelling. I worked on a presentation. I attended meetings with the staff. I observed local government. I worked with very nice people. I loved going to work. I loved dressing up for my job. I was proud to be there. I miss all my co-workers.

My motto this summer was “working hard to get better”.

I learned to always have and show my positive attitude. I learned time management skills—and that I still need

help with that. I learned to ask questions and ask for help. That is a big one for me. I was always on time and never missed work.

I knew I loved working on computers. Now I know I love working in an office. I have more to figure out about my future— and the time to do that.

I want to thank Mr. Stacy Clark at DARS, and the City of Hampton for my summer internship. I am so happy to start interning at DARS September 28. I thank everyone in government who helps support DARS.

Please help support more programs like mine so we can work, earn paychecks, and be independent.

Thank you for your time.

