

**Jacklynn Young**  
**Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights**  
**Olympia, Washington**

Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives

Hearing on the Role of Education and Training  
in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program

April 22, 2010



**Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights**

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**My name is Jacklynn Young. I live in Lacey, Washington and am a member of POWER, Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights. If you want to end poverty for my family, this is what you should do.**

I started going to school to get my GED two years ago, then started college classes. My DSHS case manager said that a degree in culinary arts wasn't acceptable, so I switched to an AA degree, working part time and going to school full time. My case manager said I could only get childcare for the time I was working, not in school, and that I would lose my TANF. I said that wasn't a possibility and we could not live off of food stamps and medical benefits. I had to be really persistent and very vocal to get the benefits my family needs.

I work 19 hours a week, but the requirement is 20, so I have to do one hour of community service. Here is my typical day. I get up at 5 am and get my daughter ready and we are on the bus by 6 am. It takes 3 buses and 2 hours to get us to the daycare, then me to college. I work from 8 to 10 at the college, and then to class from 10 to 12. Instead of a lunch break I go to the work source office for an hour of community service and then back to school. If it's Tuesday or Thursday I go to class from 1:15 pm to 3:05; if it's Monday, Wednesday or Friday I go back to work from 1:30 to 3:30. The buses home take 3 hours, because of the afternoon schedule, so my daughter and I get home at 6:30, unless we have to stop at the store for groceries, then it's 7:30. We have dinner, bath time, and my daughter is in bed by 8. I stay up until 11:30 or 12:30 doing homework, then get up at 5 a.m. to start it all over again.

It's hard because I don't have support. Being a full time parent, a full time student and working 20 hours a week is hard on me and not fair to my daughter. Single parents have the hardest time because we don't get the chances others have. Please remove the barriers to education so I can finish school and build a better life for my family.

POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.