

Testimony of Shirley-Ann Tomdio

Congressional Hearing on the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program

Before the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

May 14, 2015

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I am very honored to be given the opportunity to share my journey with everyone today.

My name is Shirley-Ann Tomdio. I was a recipient of the D.C Opportunity Scholarship for 9 years. My journey began in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, when I transferred from a DC public school to Sacred Heart after my father applied for the scholarship. What this opportunity would do for my family was unpredictable.

My parents, born and raised in Cameroon, Africa, had come to the United States seeking a better life for themselves and their children. Little did they know how much their hard work would pay off!

After hearing about the Scholarship Opportunity, my father quickly applied and then enrolled my younger brother and sister and me in Sacred Heart School. My parents' efforts to get us to school each day gave my siblings and me dedication. My mother worked and attended nursing school through most of my education. My father would drive us to school every morning before going to work. And, because he was well aware of the tremendous opportunity our scholarship afforded us, he was always very involved at our school. I am certain it was exhausting for them -- but they never showed it.

In 2009, I graduated Sacred Heart School as the valedictorian and took my Opportunity Scholarship across town to Georgetown Visitation! At Visitation, I made Second Honors my first two years and First Honors in my third and fourth year. I was a decorated member of the track and field team, co-editor of our school's Art and Literary magazine, a cheerleader for our school's pep rally, and the Secretary and Treasurer of the Black Women's Society. In May 2013, I walked across the stage and accepted my diploma.

My parents were really seeing the results of their devotion to our quality education. They now watched their first-born child head to The George Washington University on the pre-med track.

Today, I have successfully completed my sophomore year at GW. I have maintained good grades, was a member of the Voice Gospel Choir and an officer for the Black Women's forum. I am majoring in Exercise Science with a minor in French. My ultimate goal is to become an orthopedic surgeon and my future success will surely consist not only of my parent's efforts, but also the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Attending an institution that allows the student to excel, gives him or her to speak up when something is not understood, and developing a relationship with other peers and teachers is what this program does for its recipients. Being in an environment we are certain, works and provides, does so much more than I believe we can speak to.

Every child should have to chance to receive a quality education because at the end of the day, we are the future. We want to grow up in a world, knowing that our lives are secure and that we can be successful, because our education was never limited—by our backgrounds, traditions, race or socio-economic standings. What really matters are the individuals that come from these opportunities.

This scholarship has allowed me to build a strong foundation for myself. As the oldest, I have to set an example, for my siblings and most importantly, myself. DC OPS continues to instill in me the courage and strength to continue on my journey each day, and make the most of my opportunities. I know that my limits can are endless, and so should every child out there with a dream.

Thank you.

# Shirley-Ann Tomdio

## BIO

Shirley-Ann Tomdio has just completed her sophomore year at The George Washington University, and is also an D.C. Opportunity Scholarship recipient.

In the fourth grade, she transferred from a DC public school to Sacred Heart, after her father applied for the Opportunity Scholarship. Her parents are both from Cameroon, Africa, and came to the United States to pursue better lives for themselves and their children.

Shirley's mother attended nursing school throughout most of her education. Her father would take her younger brother and sister, and her to school every morning before going to work. At Sacred Heart, she quickly adjusted to the environment and did exceptionally well. In 2009 she graduated as valedictorian and continued with her scholarship at Georgetown Visitation.

At Visitation, she was very well rounded academic scholar and athlete. Her first two years, she received second honors, and first honors in her last two years. She participated in activities such as the track and field team, her school's Art and Literary magazine, cheerleader and officer for the Black Women's Society.

In May 2013, she graduated from Georgetown Visitation and attended The George Washington University. She is a member of the Voice Gospel Choir, an officer for the Black Women's Forum, and has led and participated in numerous service trips and opportunities.

She is currently majoring in Exercise Science and minoring in French. She hopes to use these skills to become an orthopedic surgeon.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
Witness Disclosure Requirement – “Truth in Testimony”  
Required by House Rule XI, Clause 2(g)(5)

Name:

Shirley-Ann Tomdino

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2012. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

N/A

2. Please list any entity you are testifying on behalf of and briefly describe your relationship with these entities.

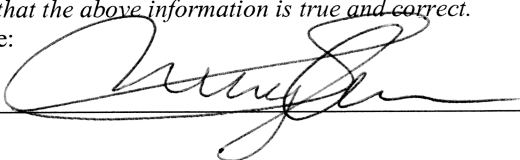
N/A

3. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) received since October 1, 2012, by the entity(ies) you listed above. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

N/A

I certify that the above information is true and correct.

Signature:



Date: 05/12/2015