

**Testimony of Dominick Walker on behalf of CHARICE DIGGS AND
DOMINICK WALKER (Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce
Development (CFWD) Program Participants)**

*Testimony before the Senate Finance Committee/Subcommittee on Social
Security and Family Policy Hearing on "The Benefits of a Healthy
Marriage" - Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Charice and I believe marriage is a good thing. We intend on getting married. We talked about getting married before we found out Charice was pregnant. And when we found out we were going to have a baby we talked about it even more. We have told our family about our intentions. It is kind of scary but not really. With all of the divorce around we wonder if we will make it to the end. Are we doing the right thing? We know it is the right thing but will we make it?

Participating in the 50/50 Parent Program helped our relationship a lot. We have learned to talk about how we are feeling without hurting one another. Instead of getting angry over things, now we discuss them. It really helped our communication.

Our biggest challenge is the finances. We don't have our own house. We don't have transportation. We don't even have the money to have a wedding. I think Charice deserves a nice wedding.

I see us getting married one day soon. We have a good relationship. I think being married will set a positive example for our son, Zion. I grew up without my father. So that is why I want even more to be actively involved

in his life. We should be together as a family. We know how separated
parents effect children. We are in love. We have a son. We have too many
reasons to be together and not enough to be apart.