To: Leslie Murden and Dr. Riddle

Re: Reasons for moving Steve Matthews from West Springfield High School to

Lake Braddock High School

Steve has left the program three times. Two of these times were from school. There is one druggie friend in particular (who goes to WSHS) whose relationship with Steve has been very difficult for Steve to break. They were good friends all through grade school, and "best friends" in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades before they ever started using drugs together in Jr. High School. Steve had a very close relationship not only with this boy, but also with his entire family, and they always cared a great deal for Steve. Each time Steve copped-out, he headed right for this family and their son, and was harbored and aided by them all.

I know Steve needs to face this situation and be able to walk away from this druggie friend; therefore on his past programs I felt very strongly that he needed to return to WSHS. At this point, however, I think it would be in Steve's best interest to go to another school and not run into the druggie friend the first chance he has to be back in society. I am fully aware that Steve could still leave again while at Lake Braddock High School; but I am also hopeful that once Steve feels some sense of accomplishment and builds up some pride in himself through schoolwork and moving on in the program, he will be that much stronger and have more confidence in himself—at which time he would be better prepared to walk away from the druggie situation.

Steve feels very scared about the situation at WSHS and says it is definitely not in his best interest to return there at this time.

We have lived in the same community for 16 years, and all of Steve's straight friends go to WSHS. Although a few of them are supportive and would be willing to help Steve, at this point it is difficult for even those few to think of Steve as anything but a druggie, and Steve feels ashamed and embarrased.

If Steve were to leave the program again, (4th cop-out) which I realize could still happen, I am afraid that Straight may end up possibly sending him to one of the other programs such as Atlenta, in which case he would not be returning to his own school anyway until he 7 Stepped (at which time he would be a lot stronger).

So I am hoping to give Steve that chance in a new school with a fresh start and a clean slate, and see if he can make it here, living at home.

Gita Matthews



29 August 1984

STRAIGHT INC. Greater Washington

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Mel J. Riddile, Ed.D.

To Whom It May Concern:

Steven Matthews, age 15, is currently a second phase client in the Straight program. Straight is a family-oriented treatment program for drug using young people.

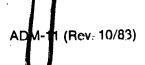
I am writing this letter to request that consideration be given to an alternative school placement for Steven. Although Steven has been well supported by the West Springfield High School Staff, he has had severe problems with several old friends with whom he had engaged in drug use prior to his entry to Straight. He has been badgered and harrassed by these old friends and subsequently has run away from home on two occasions.

It is not my practice to recommend school changes. It is our desire that our client return to their schools and face their former friends. However, in Steven's case, this has already proven to be unproductive and it appears that this placement would be for his best interest.

If you have any questions please call me at 642-1980.

Sincerely,

Mel J./Riddile Program Director



Fairfax County Public Schools Fairfax, Virginia

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT APPLICATION

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