

## TIPS ON LETTER WRITING

1. Keep the letter SHORT, rarely more than one page. Type if you can, or write legibly.
2. Write it in YOUR OWN WORDS and include your own thoughts.
3. Show your familiarity with the subject (carefully study the summary of recommendations of the task force on drunk driving and the statistics). This will indicate that you are serious about the issue, unlike the casual, uninformed correspondents who produce the bulk of constituent mail.
4. BE SPECIFIC about what you want your legislator to do, i.e. suggest that he propose legislation that you feel particularly strong about, and that he support all of the recommendations of the task force.
5. Give reasons for your position BRIEFLY. Cite your own experience and observation, i.e. if you know of someone who was killed or injured by a drunk driver, relate that fact briefly or state your concern for the safety of your loved ones on our highways.
6. Ask your legislator a DIRECT QUESTION about his position on this subject. You want to receive a clear answer, not a form letter. Ask for a reply.
7. You need not mention your membership in MADD or any other organization. The individual citizen's letter is what counts.
8. Be courteous. DO NOT THREATEN. You can best show your genuine concern by providing information on the subject, such as statistics.
9. Address letters to your legislator at his home address (see attached list). WHEN THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION (mid-JANUARY to mid-MARCH 1984) address letters to all legislators to: Honorable (name), General Assembly Bldg., 910 Capitol St., Richmond, VA 23219. Richmond phone numbers of legislators will be provided at a later date (when the legislature is in session).
10. Finally, remember -- ANY LETTER is BETTER THAN NO LETTER!! Post cards are second-best. It's hard to get enough information on them. You may also write a letter and have others co-sign with you (including their addresses).

OR you may prefer to phone your legislator. Do not hesitate to do so. Organize your thoughts; be brief; ask a direct question; convey the same message as you would in a letter; get a clear reply.



# NORTHERN VIRGINIA LEGISLATORS

## SENATE



**29th District**  
**CHARLES J. COLGAN**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
368-0300  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6987



**30th District**  
**WILEY F. MITCHELL JR.**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
628-2207  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6074



**31st District**  
**EDWARD M. HOLLAND**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
528-4505  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6882



**32nd District**  
**CLIVE L. DUVAL II**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
356-3094  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-7187



**33rd District**  
**CHARLES L. WADDELL**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
430-2466  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6881



**34th District**  
**JOHN W. RUSSELL**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
273-0145  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-7396

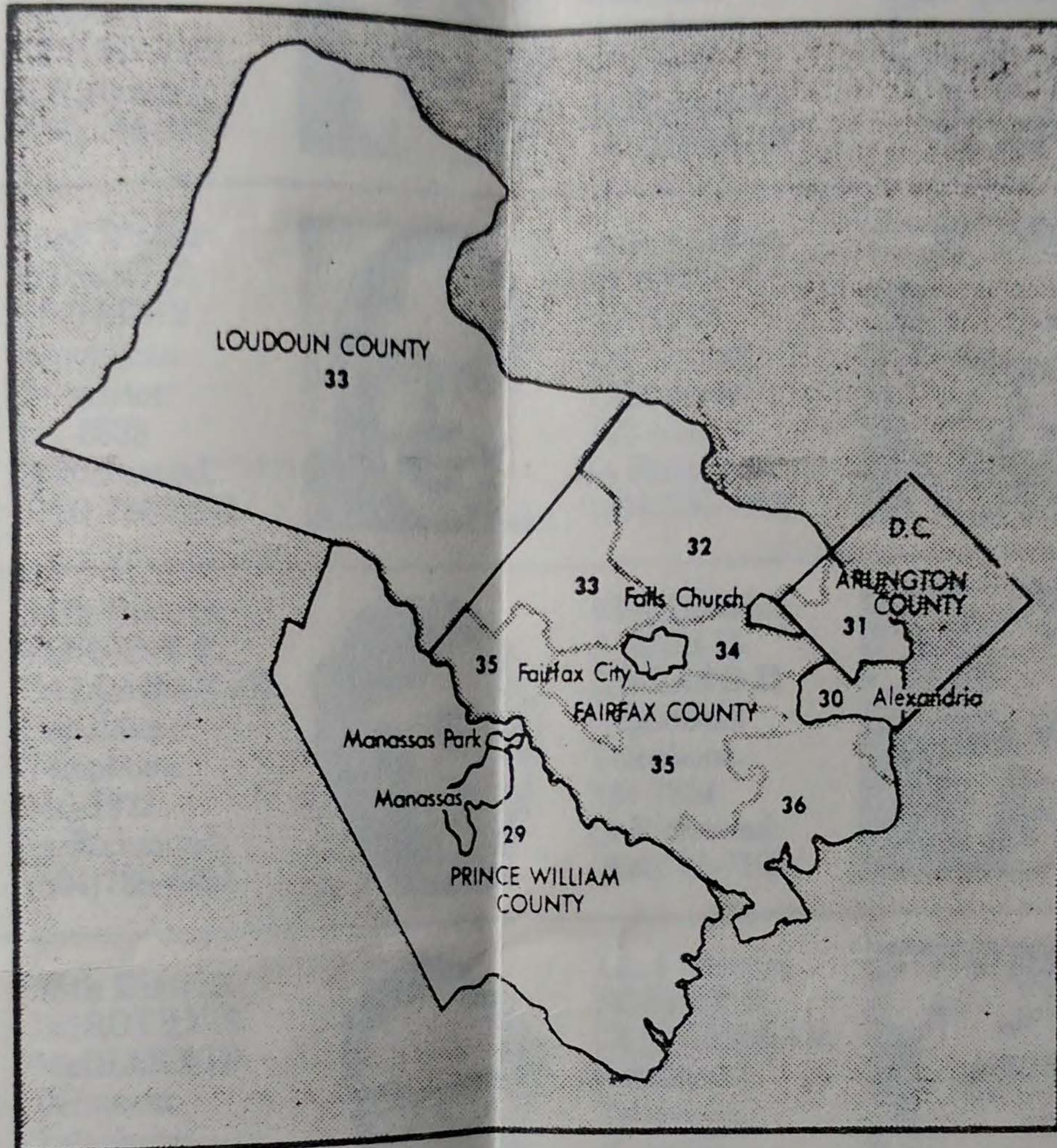


**35th District**  
**RICHARD L. SASLAW**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
941-1292  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-7391

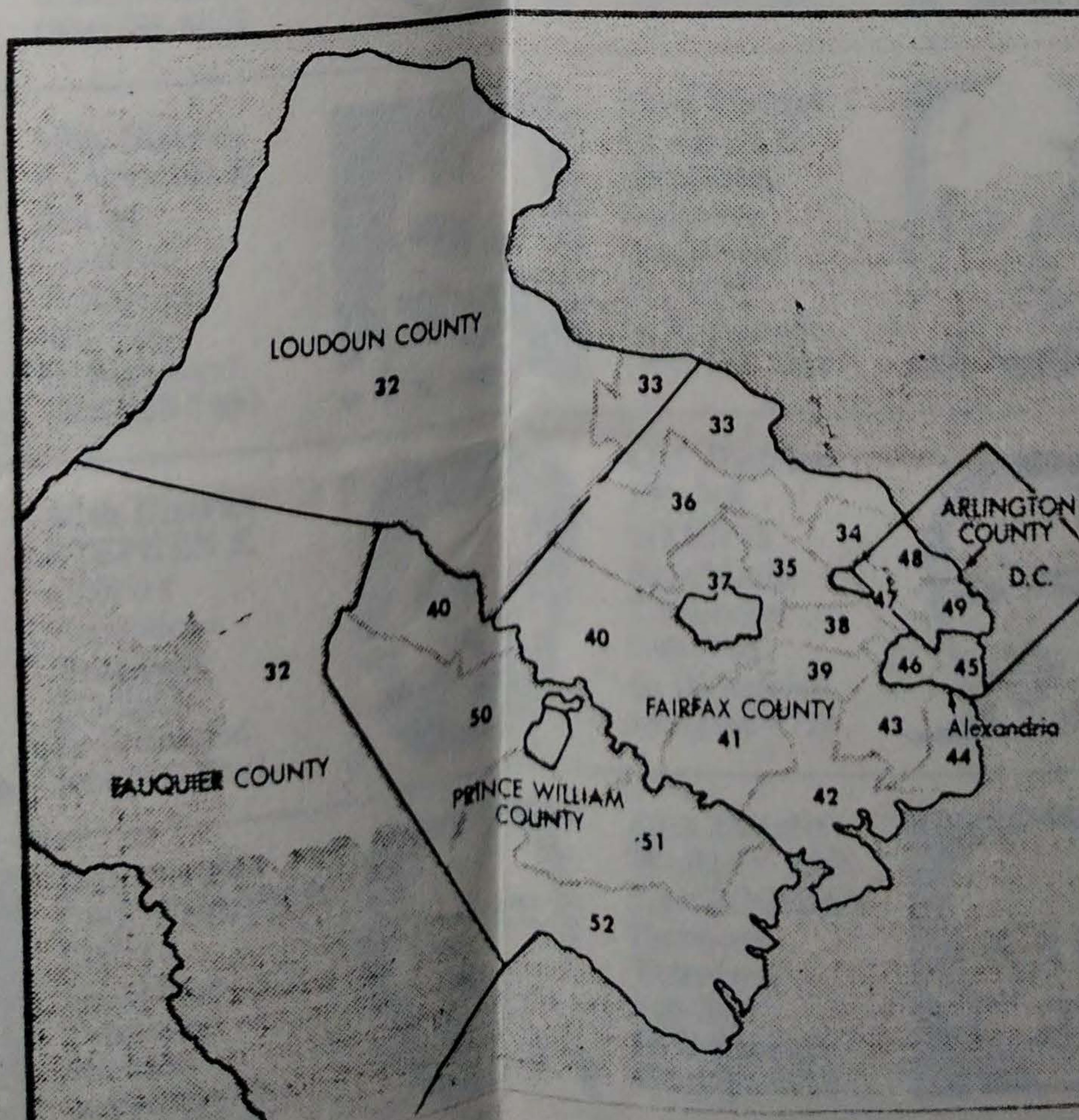


**36th District**  
**JOSEPH V. GARTLAN JR.**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
822-5358

Northern Virginia's representatives to the General Assembly, eight senators and 21 delegates, will spend most of the next 60 days in Richmond. In this guide are telephone numbers at which they can be contacted during the session, as well as local numbers. Letters can be sent to: General Assembly Building, 910 Capitol St., Richmond, Va. 23219.



Senate districts, above, and House districts, below.





## HOUSE



**32nd District**  
**KENNETH B. ROLLINS**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
(703) 777-1191  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6993



**39th District**  
**VIVIAN E. WATTS**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
978-2989  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6707



**46th District**  
**BERNARD S. COHEN**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
836-0075  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-7253



**33rd District**  
**ROBERT T. ANDREWS**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
442-8838  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6892



**40th District**  
**ROBERT E. HARRIS**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
323-8312  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-7203



**47th District**  
**JAMES F. ALMAND**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
524-9700  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6893



**34th District**  
**VINCENT F. CALLAHAN JR.**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
356-1925  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6991



**41st District**  
**JAMES H. DILLARD II**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
323-7354  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-7103



**48th District**  
**MARY A. MARSHALL**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
528-1710  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6894



**35th District**  
**DOROTHY S. McDIARMID**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
938-2700  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6505



**42nd District**  
**ROBERT K. CUNNINGHAM**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
451-5470  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6804



**49th District**  
**WARREN G. STAMBAUGH**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
276-8015  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-7206



**36th District**  
**KENNETH R. PLUM**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
893-1090  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-7200



**43rd District**  
**GLADYS B. KEATING**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
971-3571  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-7294



**50th District**  
**HARRY G. PARRISH**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
368-3121  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-7201



**37th District**  
**STEPHEN E. GORDY**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
273-2573  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6504



**44th District**  
**FRANK MEDICO**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
780-3798  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6719



**51st District**  
**DAVID G. BRICKLEY**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
680-2750  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6994



**38th District**  
**GWENDALYN F. CODY**  
Republican  
Telephone:  
560-1594  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6903



**45th District**  
**MARIAN VAN LANDINGHAM**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
549-2511  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-6718



**52nd District**  
**FLOYD C. BAGLEY**  
Democrat  
Telephone:  
221-2168  
In Richmond:  
(804) 786-1617



my copy

December 5, 1985

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Attn: Nancy Reagan

Subject: Chemical Dependency Treatment for Children: Parent's rights and obligations

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

I am a mother whose daughter graduated from Straight, Inc., and she is presently employed as part of their Senior Staff.

I am concerned about the law that states no one can be held against their will unless they pose a serious threat to themselves or others. Because of this, a parent does not have the right to commit a child to treatment if the child does not submit voluntarily. Even then, whenever the child chooses to leave treatment he has the "right" to do so.

Considering this, I find it important to redefine the term "serious threat to himself". Since chemical dependency is chronic, progressive and TERMINAL, it seems to me the disease provides the behavior of the child being a "serious threat to himself". Suicide attempts are a common side effect on this self-destructive path of life.

Another serious problem for parents who wish to take steps toward treatment for a child is that the insurance companies are writing coverages excluding treatment for chemical dependency except for a 28-day program, which in the case of children is sadly ineffective. Long-term is vitally important to get our children through the confusion of adolescence.

Both of these issues are perpetuating "the problem". I am in hopes that you can reply as to what direction could prove fruitful in each of these issues so that concerned parents are able to:

1. Afford the necessary treatment for their child's wellness.
2. Commit the child to long-term treatment with confidence that he must stay until treatment is complete.

Sincerely,

P.S. I hope you will consider accepting the invitation to speak February 22, 1985 at our Greater Richmond Informed Parents conference that has been extended to





# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT FOR CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

CHESTERFIELD, VIRGINIA 23832  
748-1379

LUCILLE W. JANSCH  
CLERK

December 12, 1983

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter concerning "Straight". It looks like a program that will accomplish our desired goal of helping families where a child is addicted to drugs. I am giving the information to the supervisor in the Probation Department who will pass it on to the field officers.

I would like more information concerning the use of local "host homes" where the child is from the Richmond area. Is there any additional cost for this? How is [REDACTED] adjusting to this life? When did she enter the program?

Thanking you for your assistance, I am

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]  
Judge



[REDACTED]  
December 14, 1983

Judge [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Judge [REDACTED],

I received your reply yesterday to the information I sent you on Straight, Inc.

You inquired about the costs for housing the children at the host-families homes. Currently, this is \$150/month and is payable to Straight, Inc. because a child does not stay for any length of time with the same family, perhaps 10 days at each home on First Phase. I reason that this is sound judgment in that the child won't become overly attached to one family, displacing his/her own. Also, the child gets "Aunts and Uncles" all over town who are all in the program and all consistent with rules/affection. The homes all have to be "safe"--not in the sense that they have bars on the windows/doors, but they do have a heat-sensor on the doors that will sound an alarm if the doors are opened at the wrong time. These families transport the child to the Straight building every day and bring them back every night, with no stops enroute. There are no phone calls, no letters allowed--the child's anonymity is protected at all times. On First Phase, [REDACTED] is physically "held on" to at all times, by the back of her pants by a child who is on a higher Phase. Even so, sometimes they run away. Close co-operation between the local Swat Teams/parents/Straight staffers abound in such situations. Children who have been in the program 3-4 months usually come back of their own accord, testifying to the positive feelings they have experienced in being a part of the Straight community.

Being a First Phaser, [REDACTED] is experiencing a great deal of pain right now. I am very glad because unless she is miserable being a "druggie" she will have no motivation to change. The open confession she is subjected to daily has started to take effect since she went in Nov. 12. I tried to get her to go to confession to Fr. Leonard while we were maintaining her at home--she went once and had a "neat discussion" instead of penance and confession and reconciliation. (Not enough pain yet.) She is progressing nicely so far because she has earned the right to talk with us for 5 minutes the past 2 visits we have made there. She has shed light on several incidents where she had blatantly lied--one being in Court.



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I know of one child who is in the program under Court Commitment, so it is being done.

Besides the \$150/month out-of-pocket expense, there is also a \$57/month charge for her supper, which she has each night at the Straight building. These, of course, are not covered by insurance. We are severely restricted as to what we may appropriately give her for Christmas. Each child may have 1 present to open. It may be 1 complete clothing outfit--no cards. Until [REDACTED] reaches Second Phase, she is not allowed to listen to music, watch TV or read. On Second Phase, the reading restriction is lifted only to the extent that she is allowed (and must) read the Bible with her Second Phasers and her host family. On Third Phase she will re-enter public school, but will be directly transported back to the Straight building until 9:00 pm each school day.

As you see, it is highly structured with daily group confession, group confrontation, positive peer culture, in a strong adult community of loving, extended family settings. There are many integrated activities--picnics, money-raising ventures, just plain old-fashioned fun. This community is counter-culture to the standards of 1984 and I am thrilled to be a part of it. This needs to be extended to every city and every state in our country in order to significantly diminish the demand for drug use, as well as the efforts to eradicate the supply.

I hope you can have some impact on funneling our children into this program with its 85% success rate, instead of advising parents to put them into the 28-day "wonder" programs at P.I.R./Westbrook/etc. We have been advised that it takes at least all of the 28 days to get a child to realize fully that their "stinkin thinkin" is directly related to use of drugs.

I will be most happy to provide you with any information that will help educate our local professionals who are not familiar with this program.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]





# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT FOR CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

CHESTERFIELD, VIRGINIA 23832  
748-1379

LUCILLE W. JANSCH  
CLERK

December 20, 1983

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you so much for your letter of December 14, 1983. It explains the Straight program very well. I am intrigued by this organization. It must work.

I have turned your letters over to supervisors in our Probation Department. They are planning to go to visit the program administrators soon after the first of the year.

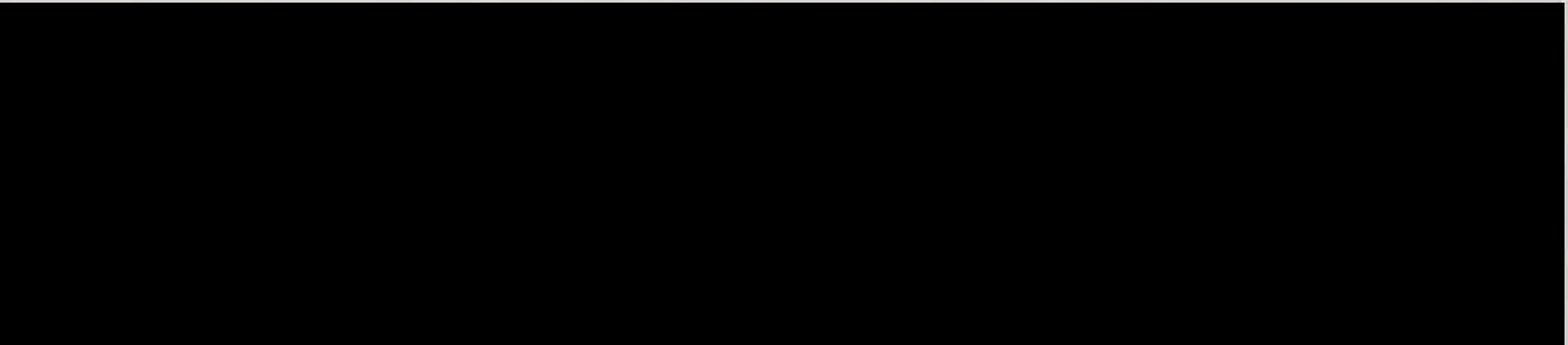
Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]  
Judge



VIRGINIA FEDERATION  
of  
PARENTS  
GREATER RICHMOND INFORMED PARENTS Chapter (GRIP)

  
December 11, 1985

Mr. Brian McFadden  
WRXL 102 FM Concernt Line  
3245 Basie Rd.  
Richmond VA

Dear Mr. McFadden:

I am interrupting my work this morning to write you this letter because I am FURIOUS at you for playing a recording glamorizing the use of drugs!! It is 11:35 a.m. and the main line was "Everybody likes getting stoned", whether that is the title or not.

It brought back to me the pain of having a 13 year old daughter who listened to this type of message and became psychologically addicted to marijuana and alcohol, then LSD. It has been 5 long years of exhausting our emotional and financial reserves to turn her around, but we DID TURN HER AROUND and are proud of her today.

You can expect a LOT OF HEAT in 1986 from the parents of the Greater Richmond area if you continue to be slack about drug-use by playing suggestive/implicit music. WE ARE ORGANIZED, AND WE ARE SICK & TIRED OF MEDIA MESSAGES PROMOTING SELF-MEDICATION.

Paying insurance premiums to cover treatments of \$10,000/month at Westbrook \$20,000/month at Psychiatric Institute of Richmond, Colonial in Petersburg, etc. are exhorbitant enough for parents. The insurance industry is getting fed up, also. And, yes, we have parents in the federation who are on the board at Blue Cross.

And as you can tell, I AM MAD!

Sincerely,  
