

**STRAIGHT INC., A CONTROVERSIAL DRUG REHAB CENTER, RECENTLY OPENED IN - COLUMBIABEFORE RECEIVING STATE ACCREDITATION. SHOULD THE STATE HAVE ALLOWED IT TO OPEN?**

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\*Morris Hudson, 30, of Columbia, in charge of mentoring program at Albert Einstein High School in Kensington:

No. I think I would like Maryland to recognize it first and for Howard County to specifically welcome them in. It's irrelevant whether it's been accredited in other states. I believe in abiding by the rules. I believe in results, but I also believe in paperwork.

- Caption: PHOTO PHOTO PHOTO PHOTO PHOTO PHOTO Morris Hudson \* Dodie LeFever, 31, of Silver Spring, nail technician and barber at David Arthur's in the Village of Kings Contrivance: Yes, I think they should be able to operate. There's obviously a drug problem out there and (Straight Inc.) is doing what they can to help them. I say go with the flow until you prove it wrong. PHOTO Dodie LeFever \* David Horm, 41, of Columbia, science teacher at Owen Brown Middle School: Yes, absolutely. Not being accredited doesn't mean they're not credible. No one can neglect the affluent areas. A lot are drug-infested. (Rehabilitation centers) are just as necessary here as they are in the inner cities. There are a lot of professionals in this area. People are working, kids are left alone. David Horm \* Stephanie Morris, 32, of Columbia, self-employed businesswoman in Laurel: I believe so, unless people want to see kids end up dead. I'd rather see the facility operate than have nothing at all. I used to live in a city where you had to duck when you heard a backfire because there was so much shooting going on because of the crack and heroin. The state should accredit them quickly. I'd rather have a program that's helping children get off drugs than have a neighbor move in selling them. Stephanie Morris \* Brian McCray, 22, of Columbia, deliveryman at World Imported Auto Parts in Dobbin Center and student at HCC: No, the center shouldn't operate until it's accredited. Once they're accredited and have standards similar to the military -- tough and consistent -- then there's nothing wrong with it. But if it's more severe than that, then that's a different story. Living in Howard County is like living in a glass bubble. It's the suburban syndrome -- when the kids get a taste of the real world, it's a shock. Brian McCray
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