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Dear Andrew Valdez

On March 19, 2005, I walked away from ARTEL WEST BOYS section because I was threatened by a boy that was twice as big as me and has sexually molested other boys against their will. He also has very violent behavior. Staff knows about it, I told staff about the threat against me but they wouldn't do anything about it. I had to walk away so that I could write letters to you and my family so that you and my family will know what happened to me. I know you would not want me in an unsafe environment. I would like to ask you if you would let me go home before anything else bad happens to me. When I get these letters passed out I will go back to ARTEL because I don't want anything else bad to happen to my mom and dad or my brothers and sisters. I don't know what will happen to me when I go back but I am sure it will be pretty rough.

I have never been in trouble with the law. I have never taken drugs. I have never smoked or drank. I have never tried to hurt any one. The only reason I am being punished is because I won't lie and say my mom and dad have abused me and my brothers and sisters. My parents have

Never abused us, people are telling me to say that I am abused, when I tell them^s that I am not abused and that I want to go home I get punished. They try to get me to say things that are not true about my parents, but I won't. People are telling me to lie and say that there was a kidnapping plot and a plot to hurt Judge Valdez. This is not true. My family would not hurt anyone.

I want to finish High School this year so I can start community college next fall like I planned. I could still finish this year if you let me. I was over half way through Thompson High school. Kristina Brower and Curtis Giles will not let staff at ARTEC call in my test answers or get the next sections in the Thompson High School program. I am not getting the credits I need at ARTEC.

I need my own attorney that will help me get home. I want to be able to start associating with my family and friends again. I want to be with my mom and dad. I want to associate with my brothers and sisters. I want to live at home with my family again. I want to go to church on Sundays. I want my life back.

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I want to go home with my mam and
dad and my brothers and sisters more than
anything in the whole world. I love my
family and miss them very much

Please if you would just let me go
home that would be all I would ever want

Sincerely! *Bertie Johnston*