Mrs. Kimberly T. Gibson
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April 12, 2002

Mr. Geoffrey Griffis, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20001

Re: **Support for BZA Application No. 16852**
St. Patrick's School - 4925 MacArthur Blvd.

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am the mother of three children, grades 5, 3, and P-K -- and 12 years ago moved into the Kent area of the Palisades very much for the range of options in both public and private neighborhood schools. We have stayed in the community because of the quality of life -- that very much still centers on education for our children.

I write to offer my support of the proposed use of 4925 MacArthur Boulevard by St. Patrick's School.

Now that our 11 year-old approach middle school "the supply-and-demand" bottleneck for school slots is becoming terrifying. We know far too many parents who are not able to find spaces for their children entering 7th grade -- and the alternative two-hour daily bus ride to the suburbs seems to be a cruel punishment, for what can be otherwise accommodated by a caring community.

My greatest concern is for our 8 year-old daughter who has special health needs -- juvenile diabetes. As you may know, public schools do not have full-time nurses -- which makes that option untenable for her.

There is a critical need for more middle school options in the District of Columbia, and I am pleased that St. Patrick's and other schools in the community are working to meet that need and working hard with the entire community to make accommodations.

I am familiar with the St. Patrick's plan. I am familiar with the proposed MacArthur site. I believe that having a school on the site will be of tremendous benefit to the neighborhood . I also believe that St. Patrick's will continue to be a caring, giving, and responsive member of the community as they have been for nearly 90 years.

I urge you, for the sake of our children and the vitality of our community to approve St. Patrick's application.

Sincerely,

Kimberly T Gibson

BZA
Case No. 16852
Exhibit No. 194

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16852
EXHIBIT NO.194