4616 46th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20016

August 14, 2002

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

D.C. BD. OF ZONING
2002 AUG 16 PM 3:56

Re: BZA Application No. 16915
Barbara Schriever Allan – 2828 Hurst Terrace, NW

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of Barbara's Montessori School's application for renewal of a special permit to operate at 2828 Hurst Terrace. I currently have one child and a nephew enrolled at the school and a niece who is a proud graduate. Our family has loved being a part of Barbara's Montessori. It's a wonderful facility. From the outside it resembles a tidy neighborhood home and is completely unobtrusive. Many of the pre-schoolers who begin their careers at Barbara's go on to attend the Key School right across the street. Aside from providing an easy, comfortable transition from pre-school to elementary school, Barbara's offers the parents of the community a convenient neighborhood alternative for pre-school. It really is an extraordinary arrangement. I love the fact that when my preschooler graduates from Barbara's, she will join her sister at the Key School right across the street. Indeed, Barbara's is a cherished institution in Northwest DC that has served the community well for the last eighteen years.

Accordingly, I am shocked and dismayed to learn that anyone is opposing Barbara's renewal application. As a parent, I know how hard Barbara tries to respect her neighbors and minimize any adverse impact on those in the community. She regularly sends out reminders to parents to make sure they use care when dropping off or picking up children and ensure they do not block driveways or cause undue congestion. Additionally, no more than four cars may be lined up at any one time. And from what I have observed, her reminders have been successful. The drop off and pick up runs very smoothly and often last no more than 10 to 15 minutes.

I suspect the real reason behind any opposition stems from frustration caused by the construction going on at the Key School across the street. As a Key School parent, I am well aware of the dearth of parking spaces and other annoyances caused by this work. But I also know that this is a temporary state and when it is complete we all will benefit from the wonderful new facility – which incidentally will increase property values in the neighborhood in addition to improving the quality of education.

It would be a terrible shame if an unintended side effect of this improvement were to be the loss of a great neighborhood institution like Barbara's. As any parent of a pre-schooler knows, there are very limited facilities available. To deny Barbara's renewal application and

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effectively close the school would be a great disservice to the community. Over the past eighteen years, many, many young children have benefited from Barbara's guidance and care. It would be a terrible thing to deny future generations of children this wonderful opportunity to begin their scholastic careers in a loving school right in their own neighborhood. Please allow Barbara's great tradition to continue for the future.

Sincerely yours,



Linda C. ReVeal
(202) 537-1114

Cc: Barbara Allan