4823 Reservoir Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
August 15, 2002

BZA
Case No. 16915
Exhibit No. 32

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

D.C. ... 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 on behalf of an application submitted by Barbara Allan to continue operation of her child development center at 2828 Hurst Terrace. As a long-standing resident of Washington, D.C., as a parent of a soon-to-be-enrolled child, and as a professional in the education field, I wholeheartedly support this application.

I have lived in Washington, D.C. since 1969. My husband and I have been residents of the Palisades community for ten years. We are committed to living in Washington, D.C. even though the cost of housing and taxes are higher here than in Maryland or Virginia. We believe in this city.

We also believe in the importance of early childhood education. It is critical not only to my child's future, but to the future of our society. This is why for both Republicans and Democrats have embraced education -- particularly early childhood education – as their number one priority. Unfortunately, quality early childhood education is not readily available in our area.

That is why Barbara's Montessori is an extremely important part of our community, our city, and our effort to promote educational excellence. Barbara Allan's child development center has for eighteen years provided the kind of care, instruction, and nurturing essential to a child's whole development. It is an exceptional school -- just ask any parent who has had a child there. I am confident in sending my child there next year that she will receive a first-class education. At Barbara's she will develop the skills required to get along with her peers, will continue to learn to respect all adults, and will develop a greater sense of her personal competencies. She will be prepared well for her future schooling. She will truly be ready to learn.

Barbara Allan's application allows for the institution's transfer to Christine Lonergan. Christine is also an excellent educator and will uphold the high standards that Barbara has

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set for the school. Barbara has done everything humanly possible to accommodate the concerns of the neighbors so that school and resident can function together within the community. I know that Christine will also adhere to these principles.

In a time when education is so important, we must do everything in our power to support, and not shut down, schools that are working. Barbara's Montessori is not only working, it is excellent.

I urge you to approve their application so that both Barbara Allan and Christine Lonergan can see that this school continues to serve DC children for many years to come.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ann Young Orr