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August 22,2002

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D.C. BOARD OF ZONING
2002 AUG 26 PM 4:23

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

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

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am a resident in the greater Pallisades/Foxhall community and I strongly support the need for educational opportunities for young children in the Pallisades neighborhood. Therefore, I write in support of Barbara Allan's application to continue operation of her child development center at 2828 Hurst Terrace.

As a neighbor, parent, and professional Psychologist, I am deeply troubled by the decreasing supply of quality preschool education that exists in our neighborhood. More and more families seem to be moving into the neighborhood over the last few years, thereby increasing, not decreasing, demand for quality childhood education. These families have paid higher and higher prices for their homes, a reality that has benefited us ALL as neighbors. First, we are all enjoying the benefits of these increased property values as each of our properties has increased as well. Second, as new residents move in and renovate/remodel their homes and properties, we have benefited too from the attractiveness of these improvements. Lastly, as family occupied homes have increased, so too has neighborhood safety and ultimate neighborhood desirability.

Therefore, it is disappointing to learn of a few neighbors trying to jeopardize an urgent community need, especially when they themselves are reaping the benefits of this growing and younger community. I am ashamed of these neighbors who seem to have developed an attitude against schools, and even children, in the neighborhood. Their attitudes are short sighted, and sadly reflect a large part of what is wrong with our culture today. Barbara's Montessori School provides a vital resource for young children in the neighborhood, and serves the greater community by doing so. In no way does this important resource detract from the neighborhood; it instead benefits it. Further, she and her staff have gone to enormous lengths to accommodate the conveniences of her immediate neighbors (i.e. setting strict pick/up and drop off limitations to students, limiting class sizes, notifying neighbors of any unusual events that could increase neighborhood traffic, etc), making their objections to the school virtually unfounded.

Never more than in these tragic times have we needed greater community oriented activism and less selfishness. We should be supporting schools in our community, not jeopardizing them. Educating our children is, after all, a community responsibility as we look toward the future. Barbara Allan's child development center has provided an invaluable service to our community for eighteen years and should be allowed to continue to do so. Her application allows for the institution's transfer to Christine Lonergan. I fully support both Barbara Allan and Christine Lonergan and urge you to continue the special exemption for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Alicia Van Arsdall, PsyD
Clinical Psychologist

BZA
Case No. 16915
Exhibit No. 43

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16915
EXHIBIT NO.43