August 26, 2002

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 have resided in the Palisades for the past 11 years. My two daughters attended Barbara's Montessori when they were younger. I urge you to vote in favor of Barbara Allan's BZA application to extend her special exception.

Barbara's Montessori has been a jewel in our neighborhood for the 18 years. The institution has provided a loving, gentle introduction to school for countless young children – the majority of whom live in our community. Mrs. Allan's application allows for the continuance of Barbara's Montessori under the direction of Christine Lonergan. Mrs. Lonergan, as you may be aware, has lived in the Palisades with her young family for the past 15 years and has taught at the Key School for the past 10 years.

The views of a few neighbors should not be allowed to dictate the future of an established community institution. Many more families benefit from Barbara Montessori's goodness than are lightly inconvenienced. It is worth noting that several of the neighbors opposing the application happily sent their own children to Barbara's Montessori. Their children are now grown – but schools are not disposable. New neighbors purchased homes knowing two schools existed on Hurst Terrace yet now complain.

To meet neighbor concerns, Mrs. Allan has actively and effectively worked with school parent Lt. Patrick Burke, Traffic Enforcement Officer for 2nd District Police, to lessen the impact of the daily 15-minute carpool drop-offs and pick-ups.

Barbara's Montessori has provided an invaluable service to our community and should be allowed to continue to do so for many years to come. Please vote to support BZA application 16915. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Meredith Hughes

DC ... 8:37 AM '02

BZA
Case No. 16915
Exhibit No. 44

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16915
EXHIBIT NO.44