Jeffrey M. Keffer
5332½ Carolina Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

August 30, 2002

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

D.C. ZONING
2002 SEP -4 PM 4:45

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

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

Once again a school in our city – specifically in The Palisades – is under attack by neighbors who no longer have or never had school age children. My wife and I have lived in this neighborhood for 12 years. We were attracted to it by the sense of community here and the family-friendly environment. I am alarmed that the qualities and values of the community that we've treasured for so many years are now under fire.

Barbara Allan has successfully and peacefully operated Barbara's Montessori School on Hurst Terrace in the Palisades for more 18 years, and has seen hundreds of preschool children, including three of my own, happily cross the threshold of her child development center. There isn't a street in the Palisades unrepresented by multiple families who have sent their children to Mrs. Allan. Her school is a neighborhood school in the truest sense, and is a much-needed and treasured haven for these young children in the Palisades.

Now Mrs. Allan is planning for her retirement and the continuation of her life's work by transferring the school to Christine Lonergan, a Palisades resident for 15 years, and a teacher at the neighboring Key school for 10 years. Mrs. Allan seeks to add Mrs. Lonergan's name to her special exception. It is important to note that Mrs. Allan's request does not include approval for an expansion of her facility or for any substantive change to her day-to-day operations. The nursery school will operate as it always has, with little or no negative impact on traffic or noise, but with considerable positive benefit to the community.

I urge you to support the special exception request for Barbara's Montessori School and to support schools in The Palisades.

Sincerely,

BZA
Case No. 16915
Exhibit No. 58

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16915
EXHIBIT NO.58