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

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

Dear Chairman Griffis and Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of Barbara Allan's application to continue operation of her child development center at 2828 Hurst Terrace, N.W. I am raising two small children in the District of Columbia and can't think of anything more important than providing a safe environment and wonderful education for our children. My son was a student at Barbara's school a few years ago – and my daughter will start at Barbara's in a few weeks.

We have lived in the District for the majority of the past 15 years. My family left the area in 1997 to spend two years in Denver, Colorado. Upon our return, we were amazed at the changes that had taken place in the city since our departure a few years earlier. We were very excited to raise our children in this vibrant city that had seen so many positive changes in such a short time.

Finding a quality education was another story entirely. In a city where the cost of living is high and so many families must have both parents employed outside the home, the quality and availability of child development centers was, at least in comparison to the community we had just moved from, abysmal. While we were initially committed to supporting a program located in the District, our search became so frustrating that we had to consider alternatives in Virginia and Maryland.

BZA
Case No. 16915
Exhibit No. 78

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16915
EXHIBIT NO.78

We were literally at a dead-end when a friend told us about Barbara's school. We were so thrilled to find exactly what we were looking for. One of the wonderful things about Barbara's is that it is in the back of her home. This environment is so welcoming for small children, many of whom have never had any experiences out of their own homes. In addition, the school is at ground level and there is an amazing area in the back where the children can play and learn. These features are incredibly unique in an area where most programs are run out of basements with little to no dedicated outdoor space.

While the environment is ideal for young children, its location has the potential to inconvenience the surrounding neighbors. Barbara has made it clear to all of the parents that one of her primary goals is to be respectful of her neighbors. She distributes extremely clear rules about dropping off and picking up our children and is vigilant about following those rules.

As I talk to my friends with small children in the District and hear over and over again how difficult it is to find quality schools, I cannot imagine taking away this wonderful, established and very well respected program. Not approving Barbara's application would be a definite step backwards for the District.

Barbara'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 exception for many years to come.

Sincerely.

Amy E. Campbell
Michael G. Brady