GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Early Childhood Development

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February 5, 2003

Geoffrey Griffis
Chairman
D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W.,
Second Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Re: The National Child Research Center – BZA Application No. 16970
D.C. Office of Early Childhood Development Support for the Application

Dear Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

The purpose of this letter is to convey the Office of Early Childhood Development's support for the National Child Research Center (NCRC), located at 3209 Highland Place, N.W., and their application to the Board of Zoning Adjustment. The Office of Early Childhood Development, located in the D. C. Department of Human Services, provides support for and collaborates with other public and private child and family advocacy organizations to formulate an effective continuum of services and care for District children five years of age and younger.

In November of 2002, the Office of Early Childhood Development published a series of profiles of child care in the District of Columbia. These profiles noted that 9,952 children in the District of Columbia are on waiting lists for slots in licensed child care centers. In Ward 3, 689 children are on waiting lists for slots in licensed child care centers.

717 14th Street, NW – Suite 1200 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 727-1839 Fax: (202) 724-7228

BZA
Case No. 16970
Exhibit No. 112

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16970
EXHIBIT NO.112

During its 70+ years of operation in the District of Columbia, NCRC has always provided an important and valuable service to the residents of the District of Columbia. It is my understanding that in its application to the BZA, NCRC is requesting the ability to enroll 10 more students, while reducing class size, providing a greater amount of indoor motor and play space and removing classrooms from the third floor of their main building. All of these measures are fully supported by the Office of Early Childhood Development, and I believe should be supported by all branches of the District of Columbia Government.

In conclusion, I strongly encourage the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve this application so that NCRC can continue to provide the highest quality child care to its current and future students and support families in need of these services for their children. I can be reached on 202-727-1839 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ferguson Kamara

Barbara Ferguson Kamara
Executive Director