

**Statement in Support of GW's Application to Expand Access  
To the Lerner Health and Wellness Center**

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I would like to testify today in support of GW's application to expand access to the Lerner Health and Wellness Center. I am a 2006 alumna of the George Washington University Law School and a Foggy Bottom resident. While I was a law student at GW, my now husband and I grew to love the Foggy Bottom neighborhood so much that we decided to purchase our first home there in 2004. As a law student, I was able to walk two blocks to the Lerner Health and Wellness Center to swim, run, lift weights, and play squash with my fellow students. However, the minute I graduated, I could no longer use the Lerner facility and had to find a local gym which has not been able to provide facilities even remotely comparable to those that Lerner provides. More importantly, I no longer had the connection to the University community that I once felt.

For me, access to Lerner has several unique benefits that I simply cannot recreate elsewhere. While I was a law student, I was able to take advantage of the personal trainers who work at the gym and who are also students at the University. Having since trained with other personal trainers in town, I can safely say that the trainers at Lerner are the most up to date on the recent training techniques and the most fun to train with because they are all students who are approximately my age. Lerner also provides a diversity of fitness facilities that I have not been able to find in any other facility close to where I live. If I want to go to a gym that has both weights and a pool, I have to join two different facilities, or drive across town to indoor pools that do not require a membership. And if I want to play squash, I have to join yet another facility, and would likely end up playing with people I don't know. If I were given the opportunity to use Lerner, I could

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swim, lift weights and play squash, all with people I know or who share the connection to GW that I do.

As a neighbor within two blocks of the facility, I also can see no disadvantage to expanded access. Alumni like me and adjacent neighbors who are granted access would all be able to walk to the facility creating no increase in traffic and even perhaps a decrease in traffic for those of us that currently drive to other facilities in town for our fitness needs. Neither the hours of the facility nor the volume of people going in and out of Lerner has ever created a nuisance or a problem for us, and I certainly don't anticipate that this minimally expanded access would change that in the slightest.

As an alumna, I am thrilled that the University would consider going to the hassle of amending the zoning for the facility to accommodate us. It is nice to see that the GW administration wants us to continue to be active members of the GW community. And I'm very excited to get back into the gym and reconnect with some other fitness buffs my age.

I appreciate your time, and I hope that you will grant the expanded access that GW is requesting. Thank you.