



Georgetown Children's House

ENDOWMENT**to PROMOTE QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**1400 10th Street, NW • Suite 715 • Washington, DC 20036
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TO: Ms. Sharon Schellin
Secretary of the Zoning Commission, Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001
Fax: 202.727.6072

FROM: Bobbi Blok, CEO, GCH Endowment

DATE: May 11, 2006

SUBJECT:

ZONING COMMISSION
District of ColumbiaCASE NO. 06-06 FAX
EXHIBIT NO. 19**Re: Case Number 06-06 (Charter Schools - Text Amendment)**

Dear Zoning Commission Members:

The GCH Endowment is an advocacy agency committed to promoting quality services to young children we do not operate a school or a child development facility therefore our comments are solely based on the best interest of the children and families living in the District of Columbia. We would strongly urge the Commission to reconsider the emergency action it took on February 13th, regarding the location of public charter schools, small private and parochial preschools and day care centers in residential zones. Limiting access to such programs in residential areas would be counter productive and in reality precipitate a true emergency given the fact that such services are needed in residential areas so that children can easily walk to school and that such facilities need to be viewed as vital cornerstones to our neighborhoods.

The safety and education of our children are paramount concerns and require more thoughtful and in-depth study. It would be advisable and most appropriate for the Commission to immediately void the emergency set-down of these proposed zoning amendments and start anew - in a way that fosters constructive public participation as well as includes a comprehensive impact study. We are

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therefore respectfully requesting that you ask the Office of Planning to establish a deliberate and inclusive process for the development of amendments to the Zoning Code affecting public charter schools, small private and parochial preschools and day care centers.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bobbi Blok', written over a horizontal line.

Bobbi Blok, CEO
GCH Endowment