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District of Columbia Zoning Commission
Case No. 15-17 (Text Amendment – Child Development Homes)
441 4th Street NW, Suite 220
Washington DC 20001

Statement of Support

I am writing to give my support the text amendment to allow Expanded Child Development Homes for up to 12 children. My name is Jessica Phillips-Silver, and I am a parent living in Ward 4. My child attended Little Angels Home Daycare Center, LLC, over 4 years. Currently Little Angels is licensed to care for up to 6 children.

This change is important to our neighborhood community because Heydi Benavides at Little Angels is providing an extremely safe environment and a high-quality bilingual and Montessori-inspired early education for our young children. This combination of features is hard to find in a child development home, and there is a high demand for it by the many young, professional parents of our neighborhood. I have referred many parents to Ms. Benavides and all have been amazed by her level of ability and gentle care for the children. The waiting list is long, and Little Angels could be serving more children and families with this change.

This change is also important to Little Angels Home Daycare Center because it would allow the owner and staff to earn a better living, which they so deserve. Their rates are extremely affordable because they feel a strong sense of commitment to serving their community, yet this should not prevent them from earning comfortable salaries to support their own families.

It may seem as though 12 children is a lot for a child development home, but Ms. Benavides and her employees follow the Montessori approach to the children's community, through which the children learn to cooperate, balance group play with individual growth, and even help to care for each other and the home. Having a group of children of sufficient size is crucial to the success of a Montessori community. Ms. Benavides consistently attends Montessori workshops and trainings, and educates her employees and clients about the joys and benefits of a healthy early child education according to Montessori principles. This is not something that is found in most child centers, and it is a gift to the children, the families, and the entire community.

Sincerely,



Jessica Phillips-Silver, Ph.D

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EXHIBIT NO. 15

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