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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, Melanie Blackwell, am writing in support of the text amendment to allow Expanded Child Development Homes for up to 12 children. I am a parent living in Ward 1 and my child has been attending Julia's Home Daycare at 2123 11th Street NW for since August 2015. Currently, the program can care for up to 6 children, but this change would allow the program to have up to 12 children.

This is a very important step because of the need the child development homes fill in the childcare panorama of the Washington, DC area. Increasing the number of children in these homes would increase the availability for more families, and especially in residential areas close to their own homes.

Access to childcare in the District for newborns is extremely difficult because the supply does not meet the demand. Prior to my child's birth in October 2015, I had visited several larger daycare centers in Washington, DC, and was told by all of them that their waitlists were over one year long and in some over two years long. I know of many other families who have faced or are currently facing the same struggle. I turned to child development homes as an option because of their accessibility, availability and familiarity. Julia's Home Daycare did not have an opening when I was to return to work in April 2015 so I got on the waitlist for August and made other arrangements for the four month wait period. This was a relatively short waiting period, compared to larger daycare centers. Julia's Home Daycare is extremely accessible as it is located on my same residential block, and the staff is wonderfully caring and experienced. As it is a small group, we are very familiar with the other families and children and the staff. My partner, daughter and I are very happy with our placement at Julia's Home Daycare and we urge consideration to allow Expanded Child Development Homes so that others may also benefit from them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melanie Blackwell

Melanie Blackwell
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512-785-7652

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EXHIBIT NO. 27

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