

For Further Information, Contact: Senator Alberta Darling 1-800-863-1113 July 7, 2015

## Statement by State Senator Alberta Darling Regarding Discriminatory Enrollment within MPS

Senator Alberta Darling provided the following comments supporting Senator Farrow's statement regarding MPS's Fernwood Montessori discriminatory admissions policy.

"MPS builds walls around some of its schools to give certain kids a seat and keep other kids out. Senator Farrow correctly noted <u>Fernwood Montessori</u> is only open to 3 year olds or students who always attended an MPS Montessori or certain private Montessori schools. If your child wasn't continuously enrolled in an MPS approved Montessori school, then MPS won't let them into most of theirs.

"Fernwood is the norm for MPS's Montessori campuses. As MPS's own enrollment webpages say, <u>Barbee Montessori</u>, <u>Craig Montessori</u>, <u>MacDowell Montessori</u> all use discriminatory enrollment to let some kids in and keep some kids out.

The bottom line is MPS operates its own two-tiered system where a few students have options in the district and most do not."

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