AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF NEW YORK)
SS:
COUNTY OF ALBANY)

I, MARGUERITE MACY, do state and aver to the following:

1. The attached letter is a true and accurate description of the hardships my family and I have faced since the announced closing of Conserve School's four year college preparatory school.

2. The closing of the school at the end of this school year creates an immediate and irreparable harm on my family and child.

VALERIE KUTIKOV
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01KU6190452
Qualified in Albany County
My Commission Expires 07/28/201

Marguerite Macy
Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me and in my presence this 27th day of February, 2009.

Notary Public

Conserve School's abrupt announcement to close its four year boarding school has caused extreme hardship for Willow and for me.

At this time Willow Macy has not been accepted to another school. And, we do not have an option to put Willow in a public school, while I am working overseas. I must find a boarding school for her because when I sent Willow to Conserve I gave up her place at THE premier international school in London located a few blocks from my home. At the American School in London (ASL), Willow was a student in good standing, a member of the Student Council, a recipient of numerous academic, sports and community service awards. If I had known Conserve would close as a four year boarding school, I would never have sent Willow to Conserve, we were and are only interested in a 4 year boarding school program. And, now, if there was a possibility of returning to ASL, I would have pulled Willow out for this current semester, but, as I said, I gave up her placement when I accepted Conserve's offer of a four year placement for Willow. We have no options at this point, but to continue at Conserve, where Willow's chances for academic achievement have been greatly diminished with Conserve's impending closure.

Furthermore, I chose Conserve because it is located in Wisconsin, where I have family members and own property. I have been able to return to my home during Family Weekends and to stay with my relatives in their nearby lake cottage. We consider Wisconsin our home state, and I have not been able to find another school in Wisconsin that offers the unique combination of outdoor education and high level math and science courses that are necessary for Willow's special physical and intellectual needs. There is no other school in the U.S. where there is an academic program integrated with outdoor education and sustainability studies and which is located near family members who can come to Willow's aid at a moment's notice in my place, while I am working overseas as a diplomat with the United States Department of State's Foreign Service.

In anticipation of keeping Willow in Conserve School through her graduation in 2012, I recently accepted a 3-year Foreign Service assignment in South Africa, a hardship posting that offers an education allowance that guarantees I would have the funding to send Willow to Conserve through 2012. With Conserve's abrupt announcement, I am now committed to working in South Africa through 2012, at the same time my daughter, Willow, has no onward school to attend. This has meant many sleepless nights for me, worrying about finding another school before I must leave the United Kingdom for South Africa.

My daughter, Willow, although very familiar with moving every 2-3 years due to our Foreign Service life, had been told by me that she would be settled for her

entire high school career at Conserve, surrounded by extended family members, on whom she could call should she experience emotional difficulties. Research on children raised in the Foreign Service indicates that stability in their high school years is an important factor in their personal development. Willow has had to call on her aunts, uncles and cousins at times this year to obtain advice and assurance while at Conserve. This proximity to family is the main reason we chose Conserve. Willow has now fallen behind in her homework, has missed classes while she has written essays for application and attended presentations and interviews with other schools, resulting in a marked decrease in academic standing in most of her classes as she struggles to fill out applications for new schools, deal with her own and her friends' distress, and reach out to old friends worldwide as she searches for the stability she and I thought we had found at Conserve. The abrupt nature of Conserve's announcement has meant we have had to drop school and work commitments and concentrate on applying to new schools while attempting to deal with the grief associated with losing her school, her friends, and her connection with nearby family members.

Lastly, if we had been given proper, advance notice of Conserve's closing, we would have been able to schedule school tours in the summer, when I would have been on Home Leave, between assignments. Home Leave provides for funding for both time off work (leave) and airfare for Willow and for me to return to my Home Leave address, Wisconsin, from which I could have driven my Wisconsin-licensed auto to schools in the United States. With little warning, I have had to schedule and use Personal Leave to take time to look at schools in the U.S., whereas if I had been on Home Leave this summer, I would not have had to use any accrued Personal Leave time. Using Personal Leave now to tour schools means that this summer I will have less Personal Leave available and will not be able to spend as much time with my family as I had anticipated. We have also had to cancel our plans to view colleges on the West Coast. In addition, I have had to pay for a full fare, return air ticket from the United Kingdom to the U.S. to look at prospective schools. Finally, this week I am forced to pay for a rental car to drive to schools in three states in the Northeastern United States to attempt to identify a new school for Willow in light of Conserve School's announcement that Willow will not be allowed to return in the fall of this year.

Marguerite Macy

Marguerite Macy
Foreign Service Officer
U.S. Department of State
Parent and Guardian of Willow Macy
Freshman at Conserve School, Class of 2012

Date:
2/27/2009