

**Declaration of Renee Carter**

I, Renee Carter, hereby declare:

1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to testify I could and would do so competently as follows:

2. I am the mother of Patricia Carter. My daughter is a fourth grade student at Manchester Elementary School in Los Angeles. I am also on the school site council at Fremont High School, and my daughter Christina is a recent graduate of City of Angels High School. Both of these schools are within the Los Angeles Unified School District.

3. More than half of the teachers at Manchester are uncredentialed, and I can't understand why my child's school does not have qualified and trained teachers when I know that other schools do. I spoke to a district administrator about this problem, and he said that the teachers did not want to come into our schools because they are scary, and that he could not make them do that. This is the wrong attitude completely. We need more certified teachers at our school. So many of the teachers who come to teach in our school just don't have the training to be teachers, and it really affects our children's learning. There are also lots of substitutes at our school. Every month, my daughter has a substitute in her classroom for at least one day per week. The substitutes are provided with worksheets to give to the children, but they don't know what the children are learning, how they are progressing, or which children need special attention. I believe that having so many substitutes places my child at a disadvantage, because her teacher cannot know her achievements or where she needs help.

4. My daughter, Patricia, cannot bring home books in any of her subjects. It really concerns me that she is unable to bring her books home to do homework, and that instead she only receives worksheets for homework. When my daughter brings home the worksheets, many times she does not understand the assignment, and so I have to look at the worksheet and try to figure out what the teacher went over in class without any other materials from the books that I can look over to review. It is so hard for the children to teach themselves an assignment when they don't have any other materials to refer to for examples or for review. I often sit down with my daughter, and we read the directions together on the worksheet, because she cannot

1 understand what the teacher wants her to do from just looking over a photocopy without any  
2 other materials for reference.

3         5.       I have gone into the bathrooms at my daughter's school, and they are not clean.  
4 There is paper on the floor, it smells of urine and feces, and there is trash all over. I have gone to  
5 Valley schools, and the bathrooms do not look like this. I do not understand why there are  
6 different standards of cleanliness at different schools.

7         6.       A child's school should be the child's second home. I want the teachers and the  
8 principal to be held accountable for teaching my children, and to be rewarded when the children  
9 learn more and when they create an environment that is clean, healthy, and vibrant where the  
10 children feel excited to be at school. If the teachers see children who have fallen behind, they  
11 need to get those children the help they need before it is too late.

12         7.       At Fremont High School I am concerned that the counselors are not trained  
13 properly and that they do not have enough time for the minority students. I am on the school site  
14 council at Fremont. Many of the parents at the school have told me that their children could not  
15 graduate because they did not know what credits or how many credits they needed to complete  
16 high school. These parents were not told that their children would not graduate until the last  
17 months of school. This happens because the counselors are unavailable for the students and the  
18 parents, and they have too many responsibilities and too many students to keep track of and so  
19 they do not take proactive steps to ensure all the students are on the right track. Other students at  
20 Fremont were not scheduled for the appropriate classes they needed for graduation. Additionally,  
21 the counselors are not available to tell the students what classes they need to go onto college, and  
22 because they do not provide students with this information or encourage them to take classes that  
23 would prepare them for college many of the students are not college ready. The counselor for my  
24 child, Christina, at City of Angels did not know how to calculate my daughter's grade point  
25 average that must be sent to the universities in order for her to go on to college. I had to calculate  
26 her grade point average myself. I called the Board of Education and told them that the  
27 counselors at the high schools are not trained properly and that there are not enough of them to  
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1 properly counsel the students. It is essential that we have trained counselors and enough of them  
2 to serve our student population.

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4 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United  
5 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 3 day of <sup>August</sup> ~~July~~, 2001 in Los Angeles,  
6 California.

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