DECLARATION OF ESTRELLITA CASTILLE

I, Estrellita Castille, declare as follows:

1. I am the mother of Remington Castille. Remington is a fifth grader at Daniel Freeman Elementary School. Daniel Freeman is one of the elementary schools within the Inglewood School District.

2. Remington has not yet received his mathematics textbook although there are only a few weeks remaining in the school year. He has no science or social studies textbooks either, nor is he receiving any sort of regular instruction in these subjects. My understanding is that distribution of textbooks at Daniel Freeman is uneven, so that if some teachers want materials, they must borrow books from other teachers and make copies of certain pages to hand out to their students.

3. This is no substitute for actual textbooks. Children should have books to assure that they always have materials to study, and so that they can go back and review pages to fully understand what they are being taught and so that parents can assist them. Remington does not have this opportunity.

4. Remington also did not have textbooks at the beginning of the last school year. Remington is in a combined fourth, fifth and six grade classroom. The textbooks he received last year in this classroom were not present this year.

5. Last year Remington had a very hard time because of the emergency credentialed teacher to whom he was assigned. [redacted] . His teacher had no experience and did not know how to handle children. The teacher yelled a great deal, sometimes threatening children by saying, "I'll just call the police" or "I'll take you to jail." Remington was often anxious and even said on occasion that he did not want to go to school. The teacher eventually left. From what I heard, I believe that there were problems in paying the teacher on time that may have contributed to the decision to leave.

6. For a time this year in January, Remington was compelled to go to another class because of the absence of his teacher. The teaching assistant there appeared to have received no training. He called students names like "Fat Boy" and "Monkey Boy" within the hearing of several students when the assigned teacher was not present.

7. I work part-time as a volunteer at Daniel Freeman. I have often heard teachers say that they wished they had more supplies or textbooks at the beginning of the year.

8. Space is a real problem at Daniel Freeman. There are bungalows on the lower playground which limits the space for children to have recreational activities. Unless parents register their children by August, there may not be space for their child when September comes, and their children will not be permitted to attend Daniel Freeman even if that is their neighborhood school. Some children are placed in classrooms for grades above or below where they should be enrolled because of inadequate space. This situation can last up to several weeks, particularly in grades one through three .

9. There are elementary schools within the Inglewood School District where conditions are even worse. I know a man who told me that he had pulled his son out of Worthington in a "quick minute" because of conditions there. For example, he told me that the only textbooks available were old ones, and that Worthington was the last school typically to receive textbooks.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 2ND day of MAY, 2000 at Inglewood, California.

Estrellita Castille

ESTRELLITA CASTILLE