L MARIA GRAY, hereby declare:

- 1. I am the mother of Angel Crisp and Ashley Crisp, who attended Frank D. Parent School in Inglewood last year, and who will be fifth and fourth graders, respectively, next year at that school. 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. As a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Parent Teachers Association, and the UCLA Parent Collaborative I spend a great deal of time at the school and at meetings relating to school business. Unfortunately, during my involvement, I have seen numerous shocking instances.
- The most serious problem I have seen is ineffective and uncredentialed teachers. I have learned that over 40% of the teachers at Parent are uncredentialed. Angel's teacher last year, for example, had only emergency credentials. She was in her first year of work experience and had no mentor or teacher's aide to assist her. This teacher was so unprepared for her role that the safety of the children was often at stake. For example, at 1:40 P.M. on February 3rd, 2000 I was called from a work meeting to take an emergency call. My nine-year-old daughter, Angel, was calling from a pay phone in the school yard, and told me that her teacher had locked the entire class out of the classroom. My daughter was terrified and crying, and I stayed on the phone with her for 20 minutes until I was able to arrange for someone to pick her up at 2:00 P.M.. During that time, Angel explained to me that everyone in the class had been screaming (both the teacher and the students) until the teacher couldn't take it anymore and told them to get out. The entire class of nine-year-olds roamed the school yard unsupervised for 40 minutes. Some of them asked Angel what they should do.
- 4. There seems to be constant turnover in the teachers during the school year. The teacher who locked my daughter out of the class was the second teacher in Angel's class for the year. She came to the class in October and had no idea where the previous teacher left off, so the class had to essentially start over and waste time learning the same material. Also, there seems to be a pattern of changing teachers throughout the school. One Kindergarten class, which used the library as its classroom, had a string of substitute teachers instead of one teacher throughout the year. I noticed

 this while working on the library automation project. The result of the frequent teacher turnover was that there was no organization in the class. The new teachers would never know what material the other teachers had covered. The students were unruly because they needed a consistent set of rules and familiarity with their teacher.

- 5. The chairs in the classrooms are cracked, chipping and falling to pieces. My daughter Angel came home several times with splinters, and as a concerned parent, I requested a new chair for her. When nothing happened, I bought a new chair with my own money. As part of my role on the PTA Strategic Planning Committee at Parent, I inventoried the chairs and there were 223 chairs in a cracked and broken condition similar to Angel's. Since I can't buy replacements for all these chairs, some concerned teachers have brought in towels to cover the splintered chairs to protect students.
- 6. The temperature in the classrooms gets so hot my daughters can't concentrate on schoolwork. The portable classrooms have air conditioning, but the rooms in the building don't. Angel and Ashley have been told by their teachers to bring in frozen water bottles so that they can drink the water to keep cool in the afternoon on hot days. This barely helps, of course, and my children are forced to sweat all afternoon while attempting to learn.
- 7. The bathrooms are dirty and disgusting. I have seen sanitary napkins and other paper on the floor, and sometimes there is no toilet paper or paper towels. Toilet seat covers do not exist at Parent. Often there is no soap. The school has only two bathrooms open to students. One is for the older kids and one is for the younger kids. If the young kids use the older kids' bathroom they are frequently harassed, so my children really have only three stalls in one crowded bathroom to use at the school.
- 8. There is a lack of classroom space. When I worked on the library automation project, I saw that there was a Kindergarten class meeting in the library on a regular basis. This class of students would get thrown out of the room two or three times per week when another class of students needed to use the library. I do not know where the class met on the days they couldn't use the library.
 - 9. I have also seen classes meeting on the stage of the multi-purpose room throughout

the year. This room is not meant for classroom learning. There are way too many students with only one adult teaching the class. There are no supplies such as reference materials, or chalkboards. There is inadequate lighting, uncomfortable seating and the location of the room is next to the playground where the noise from children at play make it impossible to concentrate.

- 10. The drinking fountains at school are too rusty and dirty to use. Many are turned off or the spout is broken. As a result, there is not a place for children to get a drink of water.
- Our school has problems with outdated books and books in poor conditions. The dictionary in one of my daughter's classroom is copyrighted in 1971. A history book is copyrighted in 1964. Her social studies textbook is copyrighted in 1991. Many of the older books are falling apart. While doing the book inventory, I learned that many other grades have similar problems with outdated books.
- 12. Even worse is the cost that my children are going through. There is definitely a self-esteem effect on my daughters when they see how their school system forgets about them. The constant changing of teachers has hurt them emotionally. The hot temperatures make concentrating on school work impossible. But there is little to learn anyway for Angel, since her uncredentialed, inexperienced teacher only has outdated books to teach with.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 45, 2000 at Inglewood, California.

Maria Gray Gray

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