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May 22, 2014

Mr. John Deasy
Superintendent
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 S Beaudry Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Superintendent Deasy:

I am writing to you over concerns that I have after reading a recent article in the *Los Angeles Times* about issues of racial tension at Markham Middle School in Watts. According to the article, many parents feel that African American students are treated unfairly by being sent home for issues that do not require suspension.

In addition, parents were concerned that the suspensions resulting in missing classes contributed to lower grades and not addressing problems that were at the root of the situation. Assistant Principle Martinez did acknowledge that dialogue with the parents is valued.

We all want our children to be educated in a school where they feel safe and are able to learn. I can understand that it can be a difficult balance with the appropriate discipline. **However, I ask if you would personally look into the issues that were raised in the *Los Angeles Times*. In addition, it might be helpful to have a meeting with the parents and the school Administration to discuss any concerns.**

Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress