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Statement of Pabla Martinez

Like any mother, I want the best for my child. My daughter is the most important part of my life. When we went to Waffle House that night, I did not know that a simple dinner outing would so terribly affect my daughter. What we experienced was a nightmare. To hear such awful things said to me and family was very upsetting. The racial slurs were hurtful and struck me and my daughter to the core.

My daughter, who was five years old at the time, heard every word. She told me later that night, she wanted to take a shower because she was “a dirty Mexican.” I was angry and heartbroken at the same time.

The next day I was devastated to learn from the school that my daughter said she was “a dirty Mexican,” and that she did not want to “get her friends dirty.”

The school suggested that my daughter needed professional counseling, and I provided that for my daughter; she was just not the same after that night, and I will never be the same, either.

No one has the right to treat my daughter or anyone else’s child in that way.

I want to send a message to businesses that it is not okay to discriminate and ruin lives, especially the lives of the young and innocent.

Pabla Martinez
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