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JAMES ANTHONY SCOTT'S a.k.a. SHEAR'S STATEMENT

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In August of 2013, I began attending LAUSD's Daniel Pearl Magnet High School, dedicated and named after the inspirational journalist who was abducted and murdered. I expected to work hard and get a good education. Instead, I was afraid to go to school every day worried about what would happen to me next.

I was bullied, harassed and physically assaulted by a group of students who were unrelenting with name-calling like, "tranny" and "fagot." I reported to the Principal numerous times and made many reports, but I felt like I was put down, ignored and at times even mocked by the LAUSD administrators and personnel. The students continued and it got worse. I was spit on, shoved and tripped.

This has been horrible for me. I feel like I wasn't protected and was constantly going to school scared all day long. I feel betrayed and upset a lot of the time now. I have nightmares, have an upset stomach a lot and I have to take medication and see a therapist to help me feel strong again. School should be a safe place where you can learn and focus – not a place where a teenager should be afraid to go.

I am not ashamed of being gay and I think I have a right to be protected from being called hurtful names because of it.

I don't want any other child to have to suffer the way that I have.