

**Declaration of Maria Lorena Magaña**

I, Maria Lorena Magaña, hereby declare:

1. 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. I am 17 years old. I attended Fillmore High School in the city of Fillmore for my ninth grade, the 1999-2000 school year. I transferred to Santa Paula High, for the 2000-2001 school year, which is in a neighboring city of Fillmore, and completed my tenth grade year there. I will be a junior at Santa Paula High beginning in the fall of the 2001-2002 school year.

3. I have had classes at Santa Paula High School in which we had old and damaged books. In my 10th grade math class, during the 2000-2001 school year, we had books that had a lot of graffiti, the binding falling apart and missing pages. Sometimes we had to share books when our books did not have pages that we needed to complete an assignment. For my Spanish class of that same year we did not have enough books for all of the students. Since several students didn't have their own book they had to share with others. So, not having enough books did not only affect those without a book, but also those students who had to share. For my ninth grade year at Fillmore High my Spanish class did not have any books. Instead, the teacher made copies of stories for us to read and from which to then write a summary on. I don't feel that I learned too much in that class. I would have felt a lot more comfortable with a textbook because then I could have learned a lot more. With a textbook I would have been able to look at examples and at other lessons such as on grammar.

4. One of the major problems at Santa Paula High School is the lack of counselors. There are only two counselors available for the general student population, which is about 1,500 students. It is very hard to see a counselor because when you go into the office to talk to one they always tell the students that the counselors are too busy. I once put in a request to see a counselor in order to talk about what classes I should take for college. I was never called in by the counselor, even though I also left her messages. Sometimes, the counselors will respond to a student request by sending back a written note to the student asking for the specific question the student had and

1 then replying by a written message. We hardly ever see the counselors around school because they  
2 mostly work on scheduling classes. My counselor is the last person that I would ever talk to about  
3 a personal problem because she doesn't even know me and I don't know her.

4         5. Another really big problem is the accessibility of bathrooms at Santa Paula High.  
5 When I got to this school I was really surprised to find that there was only one bathroom open for  
6 students. Most teachers only give you about five minutes to use the bathroom, but because there is  
7 only one bathroom open it takes a lot longer than that to use it, especially if your class is on the  
8 opposite side of the school from the bathroom. About half of the 1,500 students are girls, but there  
9 are only about five stalls for all of us. There are always lines because there are not enough stalls;  
10 during lunch we usually wait in line for at least for ten minutes. I sometimes just see how long the  
11 line is and leave. Sometimes I prefer to just hold it until I go home because of the lines and also  
12 because the bathroom is dirty and not stocked. There are three sinks but only two of them work well.  
13 In the morning there are paper towels, but by lunch time there are no paper towels with which to dry  
14 our hands. The seat covers usually also run out very quickly because there are not enough and  
15 because girls use them to dry their hands when the paper towels run out, so there are many times  
16 when there are no paper towels or toilet seat covers. There is rarely any soap in the bathroom. One  
17 big problem is that there are no appropriate places provided for us to dispose of feminine napkins  
18 or tampons. Some of the toilet stalls do have a box, but most of the time there is no bag placed in  
19 there, and since there is no bottom to the box, if you place something in there it just falls through to  
20 the floor. Some girls try to flush them instead of throwing them on the floor, but then the toilets  
21 flood and then we can't use them. Mostly, girls place them on the floor so it's very disgusting when  
22 you go in there and there is blood on the floor or on the toilet seat. I think this is so gross; I've never  
23 before been exposed to a bathroom like this, especially in school. Because of this bathroom  
24 problem, some girls choose to use the bathroom in the P.E. area during lunch time, but since this is  
25 prohibited, some girls get in trouble and even suspended. I think this is a real problem because it's  
26 happened to me that I'm in class just thinking about having to go to the bathroom so I can't  
27 concentrate on my work. I think this is especially a problem for women, because there are times  
28 when you don't have a choice about using the bathroom. This past school year, I actually developed

1 a bladder infection; the doctor said it was due to the fact that I hold it too much when I have to go.

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3 6. During my tenth grade year, 2000-2001, I saw a rat in my biology class. It was really  
4 gross and dirty to see a rat running around my class. I've also heard from other students that they've  
5 seen rats at school.

6 7. Some classrooms at Santa Paula High do not have air conditioning. During my  
7 sophomore year biology class it got very hot at times. It was stuffy and I felt very uncomfortable.  
8 The students complained about it, but the teacher did not want to turn on the small fan in the class  
9 because the fan made too much noise. I got really tired with the heat because it felt hotter in the  
10 class than it was outside.

11 8. During my ninth grade year at Fillmore High School I took a math class for which  
12 we needed graphing calculators. The teacher told us that we had to buy the calculators and gave us  
13 a date by which we had to have them. We felt pressured to buy them; I'm sure it would have been  
14 embarrassing for someone to have to tell the teacher that the person didn't have enough money to  
15 buy the calculator. I bought my calculator for about \$100.00.

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17 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United States  
18 that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2001 in Santa Paula,  
19 California.

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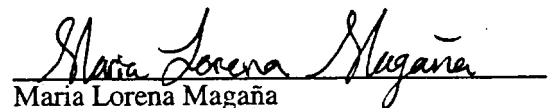
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Maria Lorena Magaña