

1                                   **DECLARATION OF HILDA OLIVA**

2           I, Hilda Oliva, hereby declare:

3           1. I am a plaintiff in this action and if called to testify I could and would do so competently  
4 as follows:

5           2. I am 18 years old and am a senior in the Visual Arts Academy at Belmont High School in  
6 Los Angeles.

7           3. We did not have enough textbooks in my Spanish class last semester. My Spanish teacher  
8 had to buy Spanish III and AP Spanish books for us because we didn't have enough books to use in  
9 class or to take home for homework. My Spanish teacher is really committed to making sure we  
10 learn, but she shouldn't have to buy books herself just because the school does not have enough  
11 books for the students.

12           4. Belmont only allows teachers to make a certain number of copies of course material to give  
13 to students, and sometimes teachers reach their limit and cannot make any more copies at school.  
14 Our teachers then have to pay money out of their own pockets to make copies for us so we can do  
15 our assignments.

16           5. We could not do some labs and experiments in chemistry because the class lacked  
17 materials. We also had to buy graphing paper in order to complete some of our chemistry  
18 assignments.

19           6. We need more graphing calculators for some of our math classes. We can use graphing  
20 calculators in advanced classes like geometry and calculus, but the school does not have enough for  
21 us to use in more basic classes like Integrative II or Integrative III. In math, students need to develop  
22 certain skills in the basic classes in order to do well in the more advanced classes. Having access to  
23 graphing calculators in math classes like Integrative II is important for building the foundation for  
24 performing better in the more advanced math classes.

25           7. Last year at Belmont, only a few bathrooms were open in the main building, and the other  
26 open bathrooms were far away from the main building. Even though thousands of students take  
27 classes there, only one bathroom was open per floor and the fourth floor didn't even have an open  
28 bathroom. Walking somewhere far away to find an open bathroom is horrible, especially for girls

1 who sometimes have emergencies and need to get into the bathroom quickly. Now, six bathrooms  
2 are open in the main building, but more bathrooms should be available for students to use.

3 8. My sixth period class is missing four tiles from the ceiling and the roof leaks sometimes.  
4 We couldn't use the faucet in that class for a while because the area around the sink had a hole in it  
5 and dirty brown water was dripping out. There was also water on the floor.

6 9. Other rooms at Belmont also have leaky roofs. My yearbook teacher just gave me a picture  
7 of one of the classrooms with a leaky roof. In the picture, you can see water dripping down from the  
8 ceiling. The ceiling is also covered with water marks and chipping paint.

9 10. There shouldn't be things like leaky roofs or missing tiles at a school because it's not a  
10 good environment for kids to learn in.

11 11. Belmont is really overcrowded and the hallways are packed. Almost 5,300 students attend  
12 the school, but the school was not designed to hold nearly that many students. One of my teachers  
13 leaves her classes a few minutes early just to avoid getting caught in the crowded hallways. It takes  
14 students a long time to get lunch because the halls are so crowded and the lines outside are so long.

15 12. I'm afraid that overcrowding can be a safety hazard. During one fire drill, it took ten to  
16 fifteen minutes for everybody to get out of the main building and onto the field. In order to get  
17 outside, students from the upper floors had to wait until students from the lower floors left the  
18 building, which took a long time because of the overcrowded hallways.

19 13. Students have trouble enrolling in the classes we need and want because of  
20 overcrowding. We must take elective courses to graduate and to fulfill requirements for college  
21 entrance, but the electives fill up so quickly that a lot of students can't enroll in the electives they  
22 want. I had to take auto shop because the elective I wanted to take was full. Also, students often can't  
23 get into a P.E. class that fits into their schedule because even though Belmont offers six sections of  
24 P.E., the sections fill up quickly.

25 14. When students are forced to enroll in a class they did not choose because the class they  
26 wanted to take was full, it frustrates them and affects their performance. Students also cannot explore  
27 their higher education goals and career choices if they cannot get into the elective classes they want.

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1 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United States  
2 that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 4 day of August, 2000 in Los Angeles,  
3 California.

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6 Hilda Oliva

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