

1 **DECLARATION OF MARIA MUNIZ**

2 I, Maria Muniz, declare as follows:

3 1. I am thirteen years old and I am in the Eighth Grade at Bret Harte Middle School in the Los
4 Angeles Unified School District.

5 2. There are rats and mice in some of the classrooms at my school. In my History Class the
6 teacher and the students saw a rat. The teacher reported the incident to the administration office
7 immediately. A few days later, they put mice traps in the classroom and caught a mouse. Students
8 and teachers have seen a rat and mice in the classroom after that but nothing else was done to get rid
9 of them.

10 3. There are roaches and ants in the classrooms. I have seen bugs many times running around
11 during class, and I find it really disgusting. Nothing has been done to get rid of the roaches, such as
12 fumigation or traps.

13 4. In some of my classes, we do not have enough books to learn. In my History Class, we do
14 not have enough books to take home every day to work on our homework or review the lessons for
15 tests and quizzes. Six different classes have to share the same class set of books. If one class takes
16 the books home, then the other students do not have books in class to study. I think that every
17 student should have a book to take home in order to study for the class.

18 5. Many of the books we have are not in good conditions and are outdated. Many do not have
19 covers and they are missing pages. The maps in my history book are old, and it makes it hard to
20 understand the lesson. We had a lesson about Russia, but all we had in the maps was the Soviet
21 Union. Sometimes the teacher makes photocopies of newer maps to use in class instead of the book,
22 but they are in black and white and it is hard to understand and see anything because the legend is
23 in color.

24 6. I cannot take a book home in my English class. We have new books but we have to share
25 the class set with other classes. Sometimes students from other classes take the books home and we
26 end up sharing a book in my class until they bring the books back.

27 7. My Science class also shares a set of books with other science classes. We can bring the
28 book home only two days a week. We don't have a class set of books and when it is the other classes'

1 turn to take the books home, my class has to share the remaining books during class. Sometimes
2 three students share one book, and it is really hard to follow the lesson that way.

3 8. There are no science labs in my school, and we don't have enough materials in my Science
4 Class. Last year, we didn't do any dissections, not even worms. The teacher said that if we wanted
5 to dissect worms, we had to bring our own tweezers, and bring money to buy the worms or other
6 insects because the school could not pay for it. My class did not bring the money because we
7 thought that the school should pay for it, but I know that other classes brought money and did the
8 dissections. It makes me mad that we can't do any science experiments just because the school can't
9 pay for it.

10 9. Often the teachers have to buy school supplies with their own money, or the students pitch
11 in and buy supplies themselves. In many of the electives offered at my schools, there are no materials
12 available. In my Clothing Class our books were from the early eighties and we did not have any
13 other materials for the class.

14 10. There aren't enough bathrooms at my school and they are really dirty. Only two bathrooms
15 out of eight are open during the day, and it gets really crowded. The bathrooms smell really bad,
16 there is no hot water or soap, there is graffiti on the mirrors and on the walls, the sinks don't work
17 and sometimes there is no toilet paper. I try to avoid going to the bathroom because they are so dirty.

18 11. In many of the classrooms the ceiling tiles are falling down and many tiles are missing,
19 leaving holes in the ceiling. Several ceiling tiles fell during class in my Math and Science classes.
20 It was very scary and dangerous. One of the tiles fell really close to one of my friend's desk.

21 12. At the beginning of the year my English Class was very crowded and some students had to
22 seat on the tables. It took three weeks for all students to finally have a seat.

23 13. Not all the classrooms have computers, and it is difficult to go do research on the internet.
24 Some teachers don't have computers either and they have to share when they want to type up an
25 assignment or a worksheet.

26 14. The lights don't work well in the hallways and stairs. It is really dangerous because it is hard
27 to see when you go down the stairs, and I am really afraid to fall and get hurt.

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

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4 *Maria A. Muniz*
5 MARIA MUNIZ
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