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**DECLARATION OF THERESE JIMENEZ**

1. THERESE JIMENEZ, 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 teach a third and fourth grade combination class at Burbank Elementary School in Oakland. I earned my teaching credential from John F. Kennedy University in Orinda, and this is my third year teaching. I make this declaration to demonstrate the ridiculousness of not providing for school kids at the same time that we have so much money in this state.

3. The portable I teach in is located on the playground, and the noise from children playing outside is so loud that my students have trouble hearing in class. Burbank is overcrowded, so children go out for recess at different times of day. My class starts at 8:25 in the morning, and the first recess period begins at 9:30. From 9:30 until 12:40, classes have recess or PE or lunch outside my classroom, so I really can't resume teaching until 12:40 every day. The third graders in my class go home at 1:35 and the fourth graders go home at 2:45. At times, my students can lose virtually their whole school day to noise outside our class.

4. Some kids put their hands over their ears because the noise so upsets them. And I have to shout in class to be heard over the playground noise. If I didn't teach on a playground, I would be able to teach the kids how to have "inside voices" and to have noise sensitivity.

5. I can only have silent reading time in the mornings because it would be ridiculous to try silent reading later in the day when there is so much noise outside. How could I convince the kids to stay quiet and read with the noise outside? Lower achieving students really need quiet to concentrate, but I have virtually no option to provide that quiet time for my students who need it.

6. Our classroom becomes uncomfortably hot during the day. I have taken a thermometer into the classroom and this spring the temperature has reached 80 degrees inside, even before the hot summer weather has even begun. I would like to be able to open our door for ventilation, but then I'd have noise from the whole playground inside my classroom so I can't open the door. I sweat during class and find it hard to breathe, and I know the children are uncomfortable as well.

1           7.       Our classroom is too small for all 27 students and me in the room. We don't have  
2 enough room to move around the room comfortably. The crowding in the classroom sends the  
3 wrong message to kids at school. Kids should have the feeling that they are here in school to learn  
4 something, so they should not spend their school time worrying about whether they bump into  
5 another kid's chair.

6           8.       My students have no textbooks to take home. I think the kids would read more if they  
7 had books to take home. Also, whenever I want the kids to do a report, I want them to be able to  
8 take books home to use for reference. Often parents can't take their kids to the library because the  
9 parents work such long hours. Without books to take home from school, my students are at a real  
10 disadvantage.

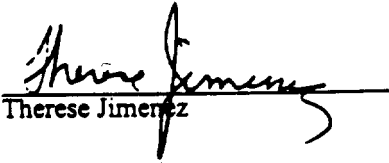
11          9.       I was not given a classroom library at the beginning of the year. I bought books for  
12 the class myself, and other teachers gave me books to use for my class library. I need the library to  
13 give the kids books to read for silent reading and to show kids that books are important. A lot of  
14 kids don't have books at home, so they need to learn in school how important books are. About a  
15 month ago, the principal told the teachers that now we have money from the governor to buy books  
16 for classroom libraries. Out of the fund, I could buy a total of 30 books, which amounts to just over  
17 one book per student in my 27-student class. Of course, the new book money helps, but I need more  
18 than 30 books, and I needed the books at the beginning of this school year, not in April or later.

19          10.       There are no computers in my classroom. Oracle corporation donated five computers  
20 to my classroom in the summer of 1998, but we're not on line because there is no internet service  
21 wired up. I have five computers in boxes waiting for us to use them. Last year, teachers at school  
22 voted to spend \$7000 to wire the portables so we could have computers in the portable classrooms,  
23 but the school administrators say they put the order in but the money was lost. Kids in my class are  
24 missing out by not having access to computers at school. The whole world revolves around  
25 computers now and these kids don't know what that world is like. For visual learners, computers  
26 would be especially helpful in making learning come to life for kids. Also, I would not worry so  
27 much about not having a classroom library if we had computers because the kids could read on the  
28 computers instead.

1 11. When kids at school go on recess, there is only one teacher to supervise all the kids  
2 on recess. I supervise 120 kids at recess by myself. The school has only one play structure and an  
3 old, cracked and uneven blacktop surface for students to play on. The kids chase each other when  
4 they play, and I worry that it is dangerous to have only one teacher to supervise so many kids in an  
5 area like that. But we do not have a campus supervisor.

6 12. We have no school nurse. When a child stubs her toe at recess, she must go to the  
7 secretaries in the school office to deal with the stubbed toe because there's no nurse to take care of  
8 the child. Some kids have emotional problems that a nurse could help with. The nurse who visits  
9 all the Oakland schools comes to our school once a month, but we need a nurse at school every day.

10 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
11 foregoing is true and correct. Executed on May 24, 2000 at Oakland, California.

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14 Therese Jimenez

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