## DECLARATION OF SENDY RAMIREZ

- I, Sendy Ramirez, hereby declare:
- 1. I am a plaintiff in this action and if called to testify I could and would do so competently as follows:
- 2. I am sixteen years old and I just finished my junior year at John C. Fremont High School in Los Angeles.
- 3. In my second semester of Advanced Placement (AP) History during the school year that just ended, we did not have a permanent teacher. Although the school received notice that the teacher was not planning on returning, the school did not provide a permanent teacher. About five substitutes rotated teaching the class every other day. We didn't learn anything. The substitutes didn't assign work because they were not sure if they would be back to teach. We finally got a permanent teacher three weeks before the AP test, but by that time we had missed ten chapters. It was impossible to catch up, and many of us were discouraged from taking the AP exam because that material we had missed made up a large portion of the test. I don't think any of us got the scores necessary to pass the AP exam.
- 4. In my journalism class, during the school year that just ended, the teacher left a month and a half before the semester ended and we never got a permanent teacher to replace her. I had four different substitutes until the year ended late in June. We did not get to fulfill the goal of the class, which was to publish two newspaper issues, because the substitutes did not know how to prepare a budget or how to complete other responsibilities necessary to publishing a newspaper.
- 5. Other Fremont students also didn't have permanent teachers. In one AP Literature class, the teacher left after the first three weeks and the students never got a permanent teacher.
- 6. Some science classes do not have sinks, lab stations, or other materials that students need in order to learn. Several times during the year, other classes came into my Chemistry section to use the lab because their classes did not have sinks or lab supplies. Our class had access to the lab on a regular basis, so we had hands on experience all year. I have a better understanding of chemistry because of my regular lab experience, but I know other students had a more difficult time because they did not have access to the lab.

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- 7. Some students in English classes are using outdated textbooks. The books are so old that the pages are yellow. I don't see how students can learn current information if they have to use Itextbooks from back in the 1970s. Novels don't change over time, but reference books and textbooks do, and we need up-to-date information.
- 8. Fremont is a year round, multi-track school, and the multi-track, year round system places restrictions on us. In a multi-track program, students are placed on three different attendance calendars, and students on each calender track go to school during certain times of the year. Some classes and academic programs are only offered on specific tracks. For example, the magnet program is only offered on Track "C." I wanted to be in the magnet program to make myself a more desirable college candidate, but I am on track "A," and I would have to switch tracks to participate.
- 9. The multi-track system at Fremont makes it difficult to fulfill elective requirements for college. I want to go to Berkeley, where students must take two years of academic electives in addition to other competitive courses to qualify for admission. I have taken three AP courses so far and plan to take several more in the fall, but I have had trouble getting the academic electives I need because the few academic electives that Fremont offers are divided among the three tracks. If academic electives like geography, psychology, and science are not offered in your track, you can't take them. So you are left with art and computers, the two classes that are offered in each track.
- 10. The multi-track, year-round system makes it hard to participate in extracurricular activities. In multi-track schools, activities such as clubs, sports, or band often take place while certain students are off track, whereas in traditional calendar schools, all extracurricular activities occur while all students are in school. Because we are on a multi-track system, we often must give up our vacation time to participate in extracurricular activities, but we still have to do things like take care of our family or work. Extra-curricular activities weigh heavily on college applications and can make the difference in whether or not students get accepted; we should not have to give up our vacation time or personal responsibilities to participate.
- 11. Our library needs more research books and reference materials. Only a couple of 28 reference books are available on a given topic. As an AP student, I take courses that require

extensive out-of-class work and independent research. I often cannot complete my AP

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