DECLARATION OF LIZETTE RUIZ

I, Lizette Ruiz, hereby declare:

1. I am in the eleventh grade and attend Huntington Park High School. If called to testify, I would and could do so competently as follows:

2. Huntington Park High only has a limited number of textbooks. During the first semester of the last school year, I did not have a science book to take home. There were not enough books to go around. The teachers were given textbooks for the classes on a first come first served basis. I know other students who did not have books in some of their classes.

3. My school also does not have enough honors teachers. Because of this, last year there were forty students in my honors English class. The class was overcrowded and some students had to sit on the floor and some sat at the teacher's desk. This went on for two to three weeks. The class was then split in half and we went to regular English classes, not honors classes. I did not get the honors English work that I was supposed to receive.

4. College standards require three years of a foreign language. I wanted to take French but my school offers French for two years. Because this does not meet the requirements, I could not take French. I feel like my choice of classes has been taken away.

5. Also, I need to take AP calculus in order to meet college requirements, but there is only one AP calculus teacher who teaches AP calculus on track C. It is not offered on my track. After the classes for my track ends, I still have to attend school when I should be off track, just so I can take Calculus on C track.

6. Huntington Park High School is a multi-track school. Students start and finish school at different times of the year. Students who are on certain "tracks" are given limited course selections and options. I was on track C, which means I attend school during the summer months even though students on track A have most of the summer off. Most, if not all, internship programs available to high school students are only available during the summer months. I applied for a legal internship and I wanted to go to a legal camp, but I was not able to participate in them because of my school schedule. I don't think that it is fair that I can't take part in extra curricular activities or programs that will help me get into college because I have been assigned to a certain track.

7. In May or June of 2000, the roofs at Huntington Park High were repaired during a time period of two to three weeks while we were in class. During that time, asbestos and dust were constantly in the air. I felt sick from the smell and could not eat.

8. Our bathrooms are not kept in a sanitary condition. At times, only one girls bathroom is open for the entire school. At first there were no soap dispensers, and then we got soap dispensers but we have no soap. Whoever cleans the bathrooms only puts enough toilet paper in the bathroom for one day, and by sixth period the toilet paper is gone. The bathrooms are locked during classes and I have to go across campus to the one that is open to use the bathrooms. In January of 2000 the students put pressure on the administration to fix-up the bathrooms. Little has changed.

9. In July of 1999, the water fountains at school became contaminated when the soil next door was watered down and the contaminates got into the pipe lines. We could not drink out of the water fountains. The school gave each class only a gallon of water a day to be shared by thirty people. I was only able to get one cup of water the whole day. Some people got none. This went on for a week.

10. About a month ago, the water in the drinking fountains, particularly in the p.e. field, was brown. I told the principal but he told me not to worry about it. The water was still dirty the next day.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 23 day of August 2000 at Huntington Park, California.

LIZETTE RUIZ