I. ROBERT SCHWARTZ, hereby declare:

I have taught for the past six years at Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School in the Los Angeles Unified School District. I teach seventh grade science, and for the past five years I have also taught student government.

I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to testify
I could and would do so competently as follows:

- 3. The school has mice and mouse droppings everywhere. I've seen mice running around in my classroom during class about five or six times. There are at least 100 mice in the main building. One teacher put out mouse traps about a month before school ended and caught three mice over the weekend. When students see mice in class, I have to take time to settle the class down afterward.
- 4. We also have roaches at Stevenson. They are not as common as the mice, but the students and I see them in our class as well.
- 5. My classroom is missing about 25 ceiling tiles. Tiles fell from the ceiling during class twice during the school year that ended. The holes in my ceiling are not in the process of getting fixed.
- 6. Several classes at the school don't have full class sets of books, which means that the kids can't take books home for homework. Some teachers send kids home with old, prior editions of the books used in class just so kids will have some books to use for homework. But these old books are between eight and 20 years old and also are not the same editions of books used in class. It's hard for kids to use these books for homework because the books are out of date, do not contain the same material the teachers use in class to teach, and are not aligned with state standards.
- 7. I had enough books for my students to use in class during the school year that just ended, but I didn't have books to give the kids to take home for homework. I gave the kids photocopied pages for homework, unless the copy machine was broken.
- 8. The school doesn't have enough computers to go around. Not even half the classrooms at the school have computers in them. I had seven computers in my class, but none of

the computers could access the internet. Five or six classrooms at the school got internet access in the last three years through a grant, but the rest of the classrooms do not have computers that can access the internet.

- 9. The school bathrooms are disgusting. They almost never have soap or paper towels. Most of the bathrooms are locked, except during lunch and nutrition. Even when all the bathrooms are open, there are not enough toilets for all the kids at the school.
- Just ended. These teachers had to rove from empty classroom to empty classroom to teach their classes. One math teacher used five different classrooms during the school day, and most of the roving teachers had to use two or three different classrooms. Teachers who have to rove among classrooms, rather than teaching in their own permanent classrooms, are less likely to use hands-on activities because they have to bring all their materials with them to each class every day. The roving is hard on teacher morale.
- 11. If a teacher is absent or sick, the school often does not hire a substitute to replace the teacher. I was absent from school maybe five times this school year and I think I had a substitute two of those five times. There are not enough substitute teachers in the district—the school calls to try to find a substitute, but often the school can't get people. When a class doesn't have a teacher or a substitute teacher, another teacher has to go in the hall and watch the kids, which means the other teacher has to leave his or her class alone while the teacher watches another class.
- last year. One of the unfilled teacher positions was for a sixth grade teacher and the other was for a special education teacher. The school hired long-term substitutes to teach the classes until a permanent teacher could be hired, but the substitutes didn't know all the material they had to cover for those classes.
 - 13. About 20 to 25 percent of the teachers at the school don't have teaching credentials.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on August 9, 2000 at Hermosa Beach, California.

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