

**Declaration of Diana Kurland**

I, Diana Kurland, hereby declare:

1. I am a first grade teacher at Hawthorne Elementary School in Oakland, California.

If called to testify, I could and would do so competently as follows:

2. Hawthorne is currently on a year-round "multitrack" schedule. The school is severely overcrowded. There are currently 1,400 students enrolled at Hawthorne, despite the fact the school only has the capacity to hold 900 to 1000 students. The severe overcrowding causes several problems on the campus. The bathrooms are constantly overcrowded, causing students to have to stand in line for long periods of time during their breaks. The cafeteria is small and due to the large number of students, they are forced to wait in long lines and then have to sit next to each other shoulder to shoulder and rush to eat because there is not enough time for them to eat.

3. There are not enough bathrooms for the children at Hawthorne Elementary School. Students frequently complain of the filthiness of the bathrooms, lack of toilet paper, paper towels or soap. During breaks the children have to wait in long lines and sometimes they will not use the bathrooms because of the lines. As a result, there are disruptions during class time for the children to ask permission to use the bathrooms. Sometimes when I send the children to the bathroom during class time, they return saying that they did not use it because it was locked.


4. The water fountains are constantly broken. Sometimes they are not repaired for weeks at a time. The students complain about the taste of the water. They complain that it is hot and has a yellowish color to it. Many teachers bring their own containers of water from home for the students to drink.

5. The playground at Hawthorne Elementary is too small. Due to the fact that the playground is too small, children will play ball against portables and disrupt the classes that are in session. There is not enough playground equipment on ground for all the children.

I swear under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United

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States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 12 day of  
April, 2001 in Oakland, California.

  
Diana Kurland