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Declaration of Margrit Cheeseboro

I, Margrit Cheeseboro, 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 sheltered English classes of U.S. history, world history, government, and economics at Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles, where I have been teaching for 19 years.

3. I have a class set of books for my classes, but I do not have enough books to give my students books to leave at home for homework. If every child were to have a book to leave at home, we would need many many more books at Crenshaw. It would be very nice, of course, to have that many books to leave at home. Because we don't have that many books, I give the students other homework that doesn't require them to take the books home. I don't fight to get more books because having a class set works well for me.

4. Because I teach sheltered classes to students who are still learning the English language, my classes tend to be smaller than other classes in the school. I always have enough seats for my students because I have 25 to 30 students in my classes only. But I know that some teachers have huge classes at the beginning of the school year, and these teachers do not have enough seats for all the students in their classes. It takes about five weeks to even out all the classes at the school because of the incompetence of our administration. I've never seen such incompetence as with the administration at Crenshaw in the past few years.

5. We have a high percentage of teachers at Crenshaw who have only emergency credentials or substitute credentials. These new teachers without experience have a harder time teaching because they're learning on their job. I'm a mentor teacher at Crenshaw, and I can see the difference between teachers who have done student teaching and those who have not. If they have done student teaching, then the teachers are so much better prepared. It's a shame that the district is in a position where we have to take almost anyone who applies rather than insisting on taking credentialed teachers. I think the problem is that the school district doesn't pay enough to attract good teachers.

6. The xerox machine at Crenshaw is out of order about half the time. It's

1 frustrating for a lot of teachers when the machine is down for three or four days in a row because
2 not having access to the copier impedes their lesson plans.

3 7. I ordered a VCR for my classroom at least two years ago, and I've been promised
4 the VCR, but I've never received one. I have a TV hanging from the ceiling, but what good is a
5 TV if you don't have a VCR to go with it. I have some videos I'd like to show the kids, but
6 because we don't have a VCR, my students and I have to do without.

7

8 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
9 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 12th day of June, 2001 in Los
10 Angeles, California.

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Margrit Cheeseboro

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