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Declaration of Erika Montaño

- I, Erika Montaño, 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 am sixteen years old and in the eleventh grade on "B" track at Belmont High School located in Los Angeles, California. I just started my second year at Belmont. For my ninth grade year, I went to Hollywood High School.
- 3. In my world history class, first period, we do not have enough books in class for each student. We have a class set of books to use in class but there are not enough books in the set for each student so we have to share the books with other students in class. We also have a book that we can use at home but the teacher does not want us to take it to school.
- 4. The restrooms at Belmont are usually dirty and smell bad. There are two girls' restrooms per floor but during classes, at least one girls' restroom per floor is kept locked. It is an inconvenience sometimes because then I have to go to the next floor to use the restroom. Most of the girls' restrooms have sinks that do not work. There are three sinks per restroom on every floor and on the first floor there are two sinks that do not work and on the fourth floor there is one sink that does not work. In each girls' restroom on every floor the mirrors are cracked, except I don't know if the mirrors are cracked in the fourth floor restrooms. I often don't like to use the restrooms because they are dirty. So instead I wait till I get home to use the restroom.
- 5. The hallways are overcrowded. I have to push my way through the crowd of students to get to my classes. In between classes and during breaks the lines to use the restroom are very long. So often I do not use the restroom. Since the beginning of the current semester, my English class, first period, has been overcrowded with students. There are approximately 36 students in my math class and for a week about five students had to stand in class. Students have since checked out of the class so there are no longer students standing in class. Last year when I was in the tenth grade, at the beginning of the school semester, in my math class, fifth period, there were approximately 32 students and about 5 students had to stand in class for the first three days until the teacher was able to get extra chairs and desks for the students to seat.

- 6. Belmont High School is on a multitrack, year-round schedule. I don't like the multitrack system because I am on "B" track, which is scheduled during the summer. I hate having to go to school during the summer because the days are hot and I get frustrated due to the heat. I get sleepy and hot outside and I still feel sleepy when I go back into my classes. Also, the students who are on "B" track have to be in class instead of being able to enjoy the summer like other students who go to traditional schools. I am in school four months then off two months in the middle of a semester. When we return to school after two months of vacation, the teachers expect us to remember the material that we studied prior to going on vacation. It is difficult to remember the material. I wish we were on a traditional school system because not only are we able to learn more but we can also enjoy the summer like other normal kids.
- 7. There are a lot of roaches inside the school. On Monday, July 9, 2001, I saw a roach crawling on a student in my Spanish class, second period. Also in my U.S. history class, third period, I saw a roach on the floor. On a daily basis, I often see roaches in the girls' restroom on every floor but I see a lot more on the first floor. Since I started school at Belmont High, I have always seen roaches in the school. I hate to see the roaches because they are so disgusting
 - 8. In my Spanish class, second period, there are ceiling tiles missing.
- 9. Last semester during the winter months, there was no heat in any of my classes.

 The classrooms were always very cold and I would have to wear my jacket inside the class to stay warm.

I declare u	nder penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
States that the fore	egoing is true and correct. Executed this 10 day of
JULY	, 2001 in Los Angeles, California.
	Cite Montana

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