

1 Declaration of Erik Monje Ruiz

2 I, Erik Monje Ruiz, hereby declare:

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

5 2. I have just finished the eighth grade at Cesar Chavez Academy in East Palo Alto.

6 3. About half the students at school speak mostly Spanish, and only a little bit of  
7 English. Last year, none of my teachers spoke Spanish very well. So, those teachers had to ask  
8 other students to translate for them. This is a problem, because the students have to translate  
9 while the teacher is talking, and it is sometimes hard to hear with two people talking at once.

10 4. There was a lot of construction going on at school last year, and it happened  
11 during school hours. It made it hard to hear the teacher. We closed the windows, but it would  
12 still be too noisy.

13 5. My school is overcrowded. Many of my classes are in portables. These are  
14 temporary classrooms that the school uses when the regular classrooms are overcrowded. Last  
15 year, my math, social studies, science and language arts classes were in portables. There are so  
16 many portables that they put them all over the playground. There used to be a playground, but  
17 it's covered with portables, so the kids can't play there anymore.

18 6. I had to repeat the eighth grade last year because of mistakes that my school made.  
19 The summer after the first time I took the eighth grade, I took a summer school program called  
20 "Compass," which is held at Carlmont High School. This program is for students who have just  
21 finished the eighth grade and are about to start high school, so that they can get a head start on  
22 high school. At the end of the summer, I got a letter from the school saying that I couldn't go to  
23 high school, and that I had to repeat the eighth grade, because I didn't have all the requirements I  
24 needed to finish, and that I should have taken summer school to finish these requirements. I told  
25 the school that I had taken summer school, but then they said that I was supposed to take  
26 summer school classes at Bell Haven Academy to make up for the requirements that I needed,  
27 instead of going to the Compass program at Carlmont High School. It wasn't fair because they  
28 never told me that I had to take these summer school classes. If they had told me earlier that

1 I had to take English classes in summer school, I would have done it, and then I wouldn't have  
2 had to repeat the eighth grade. Instead, I took a different summer school program. So, I had to  
3 take the eighth grade over again. I had to take all the exact same classes, even the ones that I did  
4 fine in the first time.

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6 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United  
7 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 16 day of July, 2001 in East Palo  
8 Alto, California.

9 Erik Monje  
Erik Monje Ruiz

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