

1 **Declaration of Sonia Sanchez**

2 I, Sonia Sanchez, 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 am a student at Cesar Chavez Academy in East Palo Alto. I just graduated from  
6 the fifth grade in June of 2001, and I will be returning to Cesar Chavez in the fall as a sixth grade  
7 student. I have attended Chavez for my fourth and fifth grade years.

8 3. In both my fifth and fourth grade classes during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001  
9 school years the teachers could not speak any Spanish really except for a few words. However,  
10 in fifth grade there was at least one student who did not understand English at all and several  
11 other students who had very limited English skills. When I sat next to the student who could not  
12 speak English I would translate what the teacher was saying so that he could understand the  
13 assignment, but sometimes it didn't work very well and it was hard to translate everything.  
14 Sometimes our fifth grade teacher would get really mad at the students who could not keep up  
15 with him when he was speaking English fast, but it was not fair for those students because they  
16 were just trying to learn and they needed help to become better at English. If the teacher spoke  
17 Spanish or knew how to teach students how to speak English I know those students would have  
18 learned more and would have been able to understand the assignments.

19 4. During the 2000-2001 school year when I was in fifth grade, I had a horrible  
20 experience because my permanent teacher left the school after about the first three months of  
21 school. Then our class had several different substitutes for about a week or two which was very  
22 confusing, and it was really hard to learn anything because the substitutes did not know what to  
23 teach us. Finally, one of the substitutes became our new teacher. However, I don't think that this  
24 substitute knew how to teach at all. He screamed at us a lot, he didn't really give us homework,  
25 and he was really mean to the kids. I was really upset because I wasn't learning anything in the  
26 class, and the teacher did not know how to teach us. It got so bad that our whole class wrote a  
27 letter to the principal and everyone signed it asking the principal to give us a better teacher than  
28 the one we had. But our teacher found out about the note, and he ripped it up. I was very sad

1 that I did not learn very much in fifth grade.

2 5. In my fourth grade year we did not have a social studies book. I don't know why  
3 we did not have a social studies book. I wasn't sure if it was because we just aren't supposed to  
4 learn social studies in fourth grade or they just didn't have enough books for us.

5 6. The bathrooms at Cesar Chavez are really dirty and there is paper and pee all over  
6 the floor. I really don't like to use the bathrooms because they are so gross.

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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 12 day of July, 2001 in East Palo  
10 Alto, California.

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Sonia Sanchez  
Sonia Sanchez

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