

## Declaration of Laura Carpenter

I, Laura Carpenter, 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 have been a teacher at Fremont High School for four years. I have an emergency teaching certificate. Fremont High School is a multi-track school, and I teach 11th grade English and AP English to students on the C track.

3. My classes were overcrowded for the first three weeks of the 2001-2002 school year. Although my two 11th grade English classes should have no more than 25 students, I had 38 students in each class. I only had 32 desks in my classroom, so for three weeks, six students did not have desks. I was able to get chairs for three of those students, but the other three students had to stand.

4. My students are not guaranteed a place in my classes, because the administration shifts students out of my classroom in the middle of the semester in order to alleviate overcrowding. This makes it difficult for me to teach because I never know which students are going to remain in my classroom and which will be transferred out. I didn't give books to my students for the first month of the 2001-2002 school year, and I couldn't form reading groups, because I didn't know which students would stay in my class beyond the first month of school.

5. Students are often enrolled in the wrong classes because their counselors are so overburdened that they do not know what classes each student needs to graduate, and they can not keep track of what classes each student has taken. In Fall semester 2001, I had a student in my 11th grade English class who had already passed 11th grade English during inter-session. It took two weeks for the school to transfer that student into the class in which he belonged.

6. During the 2000-2001 school year, there was a hole in my classroom wall through which mice came in and out of my classroom. My students saw the mice several times during the year, and one of my students used his textbook to cover up the hole.

7. My students have told me several times that they saw cockroaches. On August 24th, 2001 I saw a cockroach crawl onto the arm of one of my students. When the cockroach

1 crawled onto her arm, the student screamed, disrupting the class.

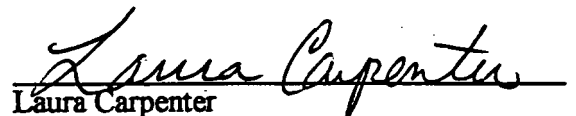
2 8. My classrooms have leaked every time it rained during the last two years. During  
3 one heavy rain in January, 2000, the rain soaked some student projects that were hanging on the  
4 wall. I asked the school to fix the leak, but they did not do so until about May, 2000. The  
5 following year, in January, 2001, rainwater leaked into my classroom and wrecked a poster and  
6 some student projects that I had hanging on the wall. I asked the school to fix the problem, but  
7 nothing was done until about April, 2001. After January, 2001, I stopped displaying student work  
8 on the walls because I was afraid that they would be wrecked by leaking water.

9 9. Fremont High School has had four Principals in the last four years. Our current  
10 principal is inexperienced. For example, she told me that she does not know how to read the  
11 school's budget. In Fall, 2000, I asked her whether I could get paid to meet with my students  
12 when the C track was not in session, and she told me that there was money available to pay  
13 teachers, but that I would not be paid because she did not know how to access the money.

14 10. Students on the B track do not have a chance to learn the full curriculum because  
15 classes are never in session continuously for a full semester. B track students often forget what  
16 they learned during the long breaks in the middle of each semester, making it impossible for  
17 teachers to build on what they taught in the first half of the semester.

18 11. I spend my own money on school supplies every semester, because the school does  
19 not supply enough materials for my classroom. This semester, I spent about forty dollars on  
20 pencils, paper, notebook dividers, tape, index cards, and other school supplies for my students.  
21 The school provides some supplies toward the beginning of each semester, but the supplies  
22 quickly disappear. The school year began in July, 2001, but by August 17, 2001, there were no  
23 pens, pencils, tape, or lined paper in the supply room.

24 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United  
25 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 31 day of August, 2001 in Los  
26 Angeles, California.

27   
28 Laura Carpenter