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2 **Declaration of Jilleen Sargent**

3 I, Jilleen Sargent, hereby declare:

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

6 2. I have been a teacher at Fremont High School for 12 years. I teach English,
7 honors English, and AP English to 11th grade students.

8 3. The classrooms at Fremont High are either way too hot or way too cold. Between
9 1990 and 1998, I taught in room C-5, which is a hot, windowless room with no ventilation. I
10 have fainted several times because of the heat in that classroom. During the hot months of 1991
11 and 1992, I had to go to see a doctor because I fainted several times due to the heat. I know that
12 the room was regularly as hot as 95 degrees some summer afternoons during the 1992-1993
13 school year, because I brought in my own thermometer to measure the temperature. When it got
14 that hot, my students became lethargic and put their heads down on their desks. I could see that
15 the students' faces were flushed. Some students told me that they could not learn in extreme heat
16 because it was too difficult for them to concentrate. I fainted several times because of the heat in
17 that room, and I have developed permanent respiratory problems because of the lack of
18 ventilation. Then, during the 1998-1999 school year, I was moved to classroom C-6, which also
19 had no windows. Room C-6 was frigid during the Winter. My students wore hats and gloves
20 inside the classroom in order to stay warm that year. They told me that the extremely cold air
21 made it difficult for them to write, so they wrote with their gloves on. Because it was so cold, I
22 brought in extra sweatshirts and sweaters for my students to wear while they were in the
23 classroom. Last year, during the 2000-2001 school year, I was moved into room 231, which also
24 became extremely hot. I had to take 8 days of sick leave that year because the heat was so
25 unbearable that it made me dehydrated and ill.

26 4. One of the air conditioning systems at Fremont High is so old that when a part
27 breaks, the school administration has trouble finding new parts. In 2000, when the air
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2 conditioning was broken, the custodians told me that the part that was broken wasn't even
3 manufactured any more, and that they would probably have to have a new one made.

4 5. Sometimes there are not enough books for each student to have one. At the
5 beginning of the July, 2001 school year, I was forced to change my lesson plan because the school
6 didn't issue me enough copies of Of Mice and Men for my class to use. The school issued only
7 20 copies of the book to my 9th grade class, even though I had 36 students. I didn't get enough
8 books for my class until two weeks of the school year had already passed.

9 1 Several classrooms at Fremont High are divided in half so that two classes can
10 meet in the same room at the same time. From 1999 to 2001, my English class had to meet in the
11 same room as the special education class. The two classes were only separated by an old, ripped
12 plastic curtain with holes in it. Students in the special education class sometimes threw things into
13 my classroom through the holes in the curtain. My students could hear everything that happened
14 in the special education class, and the noise made it hard for my students to concentrate all the
15 time, but especially during silent reading periods. I filled out the request for maintenance and
16 repair form two times, but I was told that it required a special team from the district, and that they
17 were working on other things. Finally, in January of 2000, I spent \$100.00 of my own money on
18 wood and asked the shop class to build a wooden wall to separate the classes, but the wall was
19 damaged and taken down when I went off-track. In September, 2000, my 9th grade English
20 honors class wrote an article for the school newspaper explaining how hard it was to learn
21 without a wall surrounding the classroom. One month after the article came out, the school
22 administration had a wall installed between the classes, but there was still a four-inch gap between
23 the wall and the window, and noise from the special education class still interfered with my class.
24 I put in an order to have the wall soundproofed, but the plant manager rejected the order. I
25 eventually had to pay another \$100.00 of my own money for supplies, and students in the wood
26 shop class soundproofed the wall.


27 6. Some classes at Fremont High are never assigned a permanent teacher. The
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2 special education class that met in the other part of my room lacked a permanent teacher for the
3 entire 2000-2001 school year. Instead, the class was taught by a series of substitute teachers.

4 7. There is a serious rodent problem at Fremont High. Between 1994 and 1997, my
5 class was disrupted about twice a month by the screaming of the teachers and students in the
6 room next door because there were mice running through the room. In 1992, when I was
7 substituting for another teacher at Fremont, I found several mice living in a desk drawer. I think
8 the mice used to live in the storage rooms at Fremont High between 1994 and 1997, because the
9 storage rooms were cluttered and filthy.

10 8. The bathrooms at Fremont High are often locked. Until last year, there were no
11 doors on the stalls in the girls bathroom on the first floor, so the girls did not have any privacy
12 when they use the toilets. Because the girls do not feel comfortable using the bathrooms, and
13 they are sometimes locked during the day, they often went home to use the bathrooms. I have
14 seen students urinating in the halls because they couldn't find an open bathroom.

15 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
16 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this ²⁷~~10~~th day of September, 2001 in Los
17 Angeles, California.

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19 Jilleen Sargent
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