

1 **Declaration of Victoria McKelroy**

2 I, Victoria McKelroy, 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 attended Gompers Middle School in Los Angeles for all but the last month of my
6 sixth grade year, ending in June 2001.

7 3. I have seen cockroaches run across my desk and the tables in Room 25 during my
8 math and science teacher's class. I have also seen rats around the lunch area during the school
9 year three or four times. I keep thinking that the rats and roaches are probably crawling all over
10 the prepared food also, and it makes me feel sick inside.

11 4. In classroom 27, where I had English and social studies, the heater has mildew all
12 over it, and it really smells bad. I had to sit near it, and it made me feel kind of sick. When it is
13 raining, the ceiling leaks in my reading class, which is held in Room 32.

14 5. In our science class we had to buy all of our supplies ourselves, and if we didn't
15 the teacher would take 25 or 50 points off of our grade. For example, we had to buy flour for an
16 experiment, and pencils, crayons, colored paper, and lined paper to do our projects. My teacher
17 gave us a sheet of paper with all of the things we had to buy on it. Buying supplies was like a
18 homework assignment for us, and so we got points if we bought the supplies on-time, but we
19 were also punished if we did not bring in our supplies. If I didn't have enough money to buy the
20 supplies, then my teacher would take the money I brought in for my lunch, and I would have to
21 eat the county prepared food, which is really gross and in the cafeteria where I have seen rats.

22 6. At Gompers we have a big problem with our textbooks. In my English and
23 reading classes we did not have any books at all. In my social studies, math, and science classes
24 we did not have a full class set and so the students had to share. For all of my classes I was not
25 allowed to take my books home to study or to do my homework. It really makes me upset that
26 we can't take our books home, and that there aren't enough books, or any books at all in some of
27 our classes. I can't get the education that I want to get when I am not allowed to bring my books
28 home to study, review, and to help me with my homework. I wish I could go to a school where

1 they have all the supplies and materials for us to learn. I get bored in class sometimes because
2 we can't move very fast when there aren't enough materials for everyone, and then I get frustrated
3 also because when I take home my homework assignment sometimes I can't understand it,
4 because I don't have a book to look at and because the homework assignments are sometimes
5 illegible and blackened out.

6 7. There weren't enough social studies books for all the students in our class to use.
7 For the entire year, we had to share two students to one book. The teacher would sometimes go
8 to another teacher's class to borrow books from that class so that not as many of us had to share.
9 For homework the teacher would take pages out of her master book and make copies. However,
10 sometimes the copy machine wasn't working, and so she could not give us a homework
11 assignment at all. When the copy machine started working again my teacher would make copies
12 of the assignments we had missed and the assignment for that day, and we had to do them all at
13 once. This made it really difficult to get all of our homework done, and I would sometimes
14 forget what we had done from the days before when the copy machine was broken. Also the
15 copies would often come up with parts missing, sections blacked out, or they would be really
16 blurry, and so I couldn't read the directions. When that happened I could not do my homework,
17 because I could not understand what the assignment was about and I couldn't read the directions.

18 8. In our math class, we did not have enough books, and so students could not take
19 home their books with them to study and to help them with their homework. Again, the teacher
20 had to make copies off of the copy machine for our homework. Again, sometimes the copy
21 machine would break down, and so she couldn't make us copies, or the copies would be in bad
22 shape and so I couldn't read the assignment.

23 9. In my science class, we did not have enough books for the whole class, and so we
24 had to share two students to one book. This really makes it hard to learn, and I get frustrated
25 because it is hard to read when you have to share, and it is even harder to do a class assignment
26 when sometimes the other student is going faster or slower than you are.

27 10. In my English class, we did not have any textbooks at all. The teacher made us
28 buy our own journals from the student store to write in. This was one of the items she put on the

1 list of things that we were required to purchase for class. Sometimes my teacher makes copies of
2 poems for us to read. I really want to read out of a book. It isn't right that other school districts
3 have books to use and to take home, and we don't.

4 11. During my reading period, none of the students have books to use. The teacher
5 has one copy of a story book, and she makes photocopies from it for us to do. Again, some of the
6 photocopies are blanked out or have missing parts, and so it is hard to do your work.

7 12. For P.E. I have to buy my own uniform or my own sweatpants. The school does
8 not have any uniforms for us to borrow. If I don't buy either a uniform or sweatpants then my
9 grade is lowered, because they say that I haven't dressed for the class. This isn't right.

10 13. The administrators only open two bathrooms on the school campus for the
11 students to use, both of which are near the student store. There are also bathrooms in the gym
12 where we have P.E., and they are open for changing and use during our P.E. period. Most of the
13 time the two campus bathrooms are only open during lunch time. After lunch the school locks
14 them up again. Because we are only really allowed to go to the bathroom during lunch, it can get
15 really crowded in there. Sometimes there are lines. After lunch, when I want to go I can't, and so
16 I have to hold it. I feel like I am really missing out when this happens, because I am
17 uncomfortable and it is hard to concentrate. It makes me mad that they won't let us use the
18 bathroom when we really have to. They don't do that to adults.

19 14. The two bathrooms that are open on the campus are really gross. There is no
20 toilet paper or paper towels, and the hand dryers don't work very well. Several of the water
21 faucets are also broken. There are dirty tissues on the ceiling, and it smells really bad.

22 15. My math/science teacher was gone about one day per week during the school year.
23 This was rough, because when she was gone sometimes they could not find a substitute and so
24 they would split all the students in my class into groups of five or six and send us to other
25 teachers' classrooms. Sometimes we had worksheets to do, and other times we had nothing to
26 do. The teacher of the class I went to when our class had to be split up was teaching her class
27 something different. She really could not help us, and I don't feel like I learned anything on those
28 days.

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I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 3 day of July, 2001 in Los Angeles, California.

Victoria McKelroy
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