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I, Ana Perez, hereby declare:

1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to

2. I just graduated from Oxnard High School in Oxnard, California in June of 2001.

3. My education at Oxnard High School has suffered greatly because of the terrible

4. I was scheduled to be in calculus during the 2000-2001 school year but instead of

5. My English class during the 2000-2001 school year was overcrowded. There

6. My physics class during the 2000-2001 school year was also really overcrowded.

1 the semester several new students were assigned to our class, and our teacher turned them away
2 because he said no one else could fit into our classroom.

3 7. In my government class during the 2000-2001 school year two of the students did
4 not have a seat for the first week of class because it was so overcrowded. My teacher finally
5 found a desk for one of the students, but the other student would sit in the teacher's desk some
6 days or in the seat of whatever student happened to be absent on a given class day. It was pretty
7 sad that the class was so overcrowded that the student never had her own desk. The rows in my
8 government class were also squished together and it was really hard to walk around the
9 classroom. My teacher had a difficult time maneuvering through the rows to help students. It
10 was also very noisy and hot because it was so overcrowded and there was no air conditioning.

11 8. In my chemistry class during the 1999-2000 school year it was so overcrowded
12 that I could not get out of my seat unless the students in the desks surrounding my table got out
13 of their seats and physically moved their desks. I would estimate that we had more than 40
14 students in that class shoved into both lab tables and individual desks. If there had been a fire I
15 do not know how we would have safely gotten out of our classroom.

16 9. It was also really crowded in my first semester English class during the 1998-1999
17 school year. I would estimate that there were about 40 students in that class, and it felt like we
18 were sardines. My teacher could not help everyone during the class period because there were
19 so many of us. She would tell us to come back to the class after-school or during lunch if we
20 needed help. During the class period it was very hectic. Almost every day I would stay after to
21 do my homework because I needed extra one on one time with the teacher, and she was unable to
22 provide me with the help I needed during the class period because there were just too many
23 students. When so many students are packed into one classroom and there is no air conditioning
24 it can become unbearably hot, and so it is even harder to concentrate. My teacher brought in her
25 own fan because the temperature in the class was so high.

26 10. In my geometry class during the 1998-1999 school year at least one person was
27 without a desk, and she had to sit at a table instead because the class was overcrowded.

28 11. During the 1997-1998 school year I was placed in a class for both Algebra I and

1 Math A students, because they did not have enough teachers to teach the two classes separately.
2 This was terrible because my teacher would spend 10 to 15 minutes at the beginning of the class
3 teaching the Math A students, and the Algebra I students would just sit there and wait until she
4 finished. Then my teacher would come over to the Algebra I students and teach them. This was
5 really hard for me because it was my first year of high school, and I needed extra help and she
6 had two classes going on at once. Sometimes my teacher would confuse her lessons because it
7 was difficult for her to keep track of what she had taught my class and what she had taught the
8 Math A class.

9 12. Three classes including my Spanish class were held in the auditorium/theater
10 during the first semester of the 1998-1999 school year because of overcrowding. A world
11 civilization class and another Spanish class were held in the upper seating area of the
12 auditorium/theater and they were separated by only a movable wall. Our Spanish class was held
13 in the lower seats in the auditorium/theater. The auditorium/theater was a terrible place to hold a
14 class for several reasons. First, it was really noisy and hectic because there were three classes
15 being held in the same place at once, and I could hear what the other classes were saying and it
16 was very distracting. Often because it was so noisy I and the other students in my class would
17 ask the teacher to repeat herself or we would tell her to speak louder. However, if she spoke
18 louder then she would disturb the other classes. Second, there was no chalkboard or anything
19 else for our teacher to write assignments or notes on. Third, the lights in the auditorium/theater
20 were really dim and it was difficult to read. Often after class my eyes would hurt. My teacher
21 told us to tell our parents to talk to the administrators about our horrible situation so that maybe it
22 would get better. Finally, it was sad that my teacher had to cart her books around because she did
23 not have a regular classroom. She is one of many teachers at my school that cart their books and
24 materials around the school from class to class using other teachers' classes whenever they have
25 their conference or preparation periods. There just isn't enough space at our school. During the
26 second semester our Spanish class was moved to the auto shop room. This was a little bit better
27 except that the smell of fresh paint made the students and the teacher feel sick. Twice our
28 teacher allowed our whole class to go outside to breathe the fresh air during the class period

1 because the smell of paint was making us feel really ill.

2 13. The wiring at Oxnard High School is damaged. A brand new air conditioning
3 system was installed at our school when the school was built, but the only year this system
4 actually worked was during the 1997-1998 school year. So for my sophomore, junior, and senior
5 years I had to sit in classrooms that were uncomfortably hot, and it made it very difficult for me
6 to concentrate. It was extremely hot in my statistics class from about September to October and
7 then again from about April until the end of June during the 2000-2001 school year. The
8 classroom did not have air conditioning, and so during the last few months of school it was
9 uncomfortably hot. At times it got so hot that I could smell my sweat and the sweat of my
10 classmates. When it was really hot in our classroom it was hard for us to concentrate and it
11 would make me feel very sleepy. Not only was it smelly because of the heat, but our classroom
12 was right next to the agricultural fields and during class we were overwhelmed with the smell of
13 fertilizer. Some days I felt really sick because I was dehydrated, and I could smell the pesticides
14 coming off of the fields. I told my teacher that the smell from the pesticides in the field and the
15 heat together were making me feel ill. My teacher had called up to the front office several times,
16 but the administrators said there was nothing they could do because the field was not part of the
17 school campus. The administrators did not explain why they could not fix the air conditioning.
18 It was very hard to concentrate because of the smell, and I would often cover up my nose with
19 my shirt.

20 14. In my native Spanish speakers class, which was held in a portable classroom, the
21 air conditioning did not work. It would get really hot in the months closest to summer and during
22 the beginning of the school year to the point where I could smell my own sweat and the sweat of
23 my classmates. It was really, really hard to concentrate, and because the portable was really
24 small and packed with people it was even worse.

25 15. In my English and Government class during the 2000-2001 school year it was also
26 really hot, and my teachers in these classes bought fans with their own money to try and cool
27 down the classrooms.

28 16. During the 1999-2000 school year in my English III class when it was near

1 summer it was hot, and we had to keep the windows open. My Algebra II class during this year
2 was also really hot and it was in a classroom next to the agricultural fields and so it was really
3 smelly. In that class I often felt dehydrated and sick to my stomach. Almost every day when it
4 was hot I would get a headache from the combination of pesticide smell and heat. My friend also
5 told me she would get headaches in that class. My teacher bought two fans with her own money
6 to try and make it cooler in the classroom. That helped a little bit.

7 17. In my English class during the 1998-1999 school year it was really hot and again
8 the teacher brought in her own fan so it wasn't so hot in the room.

9 18. We have a book problem at Oxnard High School.

10 19. In my native Spanish speakers class during the 2000-2001 school year we did not
11 have any books for our class. The school administrators told my teacher that they could not
12 afford to buy books for my class because the Spanish department did not have enough money.
13 My teacher was a really good teacher but it was not right that she had to spend money out of her
14 own pocket to provide instructional materials for us. She made copies everyday for our class but
15 the school has a limit on the number of copies she is allowed to make. My teacher told us she
16 had to go to Cost Co to make copies for our class. I wish we had a book in that class.

17 20. In my English class during the 2000-2001 school year we did not have enough
18 literature books for our entire class and so about five or six students in the class had to share
19 books every day. We just had a class set of books and so when we had homework we had to
20 copy the questions from the board.

21 21. In my physics class during the 2000-2001 school year the books were all ripped
22 up. The book covers on many of the books were falling apart, and the book bindings were
23 tearing. Once in class the cover of my book fell off and the binding tore, and so I had to get
24 another book from the shelf. Twice I remember that when my teacher told me to turn to a page in
25 the book it was missing. When this happened I raised my hand, and my teacher told me that I
26 should share with another student because there were no other books. Sharing is not a good
27 solution to the problem of damaged books because when two students have to share one of the
28 students is unable to read the page furthest away from them. Also if you are given an assignment

1 it is very difficult to read the questions together. When I was told to share with another student I
2 waited until that student had finished their work before I did my assignment because it was too
3 difficult to do it together. When we are given old, ripped up books it makes me mad because
4 every class should have current textbooks.

5 22. In my AP Spanish class during the 1999-2000 school year we could not take our
6 books home with us because there were not enough books. I really wanted to have a book in this
7 class, because it was an AP class and I wanted to do as much work as possible so that I could
8 pass the AP test and get credits for college. If I had a book to take home I would have studied on
9 my own to do well on the AP test. It made me sad that I was not provided with basic materials to
10 take home and study with.

11 23. In my chemistry class during the 1999-2000 school year the books were really old,
12 the covers were falling apart, and the pages had writing all over them. Sometimes our teacher
13 would give us her own notes from different books because the information in our science book
14 was outdated.

15 24. In my English class during the 1998-1999 school year we only had a class set of
16 grammar books, and so we could not take these books home. I wish we could have taken these
17 books home with us, because we had a lot of homework and only a little time to do it in class. I
18 wanted to finish my homework and get a good grade and so did a lot of other students in the class
19 and so we would stay after class or go back to class during lunch time if we wanted to do our
20 homework because we needed to use the grammar books. Some of the students would rush
21 through their assignments because they knew if they did not then they could not complete their
22 assignment at home without their book.

23 25. My English class during the 2000-2001 school year was held in a portable
24 classroom that was right next to the basketball courts, the baseball field, and the tennis courts,
25 and it was really noisy. Our school is so overcrowded that the portable classrooms are taking
26 over space that is supposed to be used for recreation. Our classroom was about 5 feet away from
27 the basketball hoops, and while our English class was in session two or three P.E. classes were
28 also being held right outside our classroom door. It was really, really noisy in my classroom.

1 The students in my class could hear almost everything that was going on outside, and it was very
2 distracting. I had a difficult time concentrating on what my teacher was saying. Students in my
3 class would raise their hands and ask our teacher to repeat what he had said because they could
4 not hear with all the noise outside. Even though it was really hot at times and it would have been
5 nice to have the windows and doors open to cool down the classroom, we had to keep everything
6 shut because of the noise. As a result, it felt like a sauna inside that classroom.

7 26. My physics class during the 2000-2001 school year was held on the second floor
8 of a building that was also really near one of the three agricultural fields that surround our school.
9 Unfortunately, the area below our classroom was the area where the agriculture managers
10 dumped all of the chemicals and pesticides they used on the fields, and the smell was horrible.
11 Every day students would run out of that class and down the stairs as fast as they could so that
12 they could get away from the horrible smell coming from the grass area where the chemicals had
13 been dumped. Because we do not have any air conditioning in our school it was really hot in our
14 classrooms, and the combination of heat and pesticides made me feel very sick to my stomach.
15 Several days it was so bad that I got a headache during class. Other days I would feel light
16 headed, and I thought I was going to throw up. My teacher would tell us that he had complained
17 to the school administration about the smell but they never did anything. It was also really hot in
18 our classroom, and sometimes it would get so stuffy and smelly that the students in the back rows
19 would just put their heads down because they felt sleepy and sick. Students would also cover
20 their noses with their shirts while they did their work.

21 27. Three times in my physics class during 2000-2001 school year I could here rats
22 scratching around inside the ceiling of our classroom. Even though I never saw what animal was
23 making the noise, I believe it was a rat because my teacher told us we had rats. In my chemistry
24 class during the 1999-2000 school year there was a dead rat in the ceiling, and it smelled really
25 horrible like dead rotting meat. My teacher called the administration and told them about the
26 smell in our classroom, but they did not do anything about it for about three weeks. It made me
27 feel ill. My chemistry class was right after lunch, and so students would come into the class and
28 put their shirts over their noses so that they didn't feel grossed out right after eating. Before the

1 rat died we could hear it scratching around in the ceiling and in the walls of our classroom. One
2 day after school my chemistry teacher found another dead rat next to her desk, and she told our
3 class about it the next day.

4 28. I did not have enough materials or supplies in my physics class during the 2000-
5 2001 school year. When the teacher assigned labs in this class he had to give them to us in
6 worksheet form because we did not have a lab book. Because the science department did not
7 have very much money our teacher would only make enough copies for half of the class. This
8 meant that we had to share our worksheets, and sometimes I had to stay after class because when
9 two people share one student will do the work first and then when they finish they will hand the
10 other student the worksheet so that that student can do the assignment. This really wastes a lot of
11 time, and when the other student was doing the lab I would just sit and watch them. We did not
12 have enough equipment in my physics class for all of the students in that class, and so our teacher
13 put us in groups of six or seven students. It was really hard to learn in such a big group, and I
14 almost never got to have the hands on experience of completing the lab myself. Most of the time
15 I just watched while someone else in the group completed the experiment. When we worked
16 with weights there were so few that we had to wait for another group to finish their assignment
17 before our lab group could use the weights. It was a complete waste of class time.

18 29. In my design class during the 1999-2000 school year we had no materials or
19 books, and we had to bring our own supplies into class if we wanted to do projects. For example,
20 we created a lot of different collages in that class and we had to bring in our own magazines to
21 complete that assignment. The teacher did not have magazines for us in the classroom. There
22 were only five glue sticks for our entire class of 25 some students, and our teacher was very upset
23 because she said the department just did not have enough money for the supplies that we needed.
24 My teacher gave us extra credit if we brought in colored pencils to be shared with the class. I
25 wanted extra credit, and so I paid for color pencils and donated them to the class. A design class
26 should have materials to create designs and other art projects, and I believe if we had more
27 supplies we could have done more than just create collages.

28 30. In my geometry class during the 1998-1999 school year I had different substitutes

1 for most of the school year because my teacher got really sick. For about one month and one half
2 during the first semester we had different substitutes every day. During the second semester it
3 was rare if our teacher came to class so almost every day we had a different substitute. Most of
4 the substitutes did not know how to teach math. They would pass out worksheets, but when I
5 asked them for help they told me they could not help me because they did not know how to teach
6 geometry. I didn't really learn anything and so when we took our exam I got a "C." This was my
7 first "C" ever, and I felt really cheated because it was not my fault that there was not a permanent
8 teacher in front of my class teaching me geometry. It was not fair that I did not learn geometry
9 that year, and I don't understand why the administration did not find us a permanent substitute or
10 a permanent teacher.

11 31. In our softball class during the 1998-1999 school year we did not have enough
12 bases or bats for both the varsity and the junior varsity teams. I was on the junior varsity team
13 and so we often played without any bases and sometimes we were short on bats.

14 32. In my computer class during the 1997-1998 school year we had to do our work on
15 the really old apple computers with the big floppy disks that you slip into the machines and then
16 you have to lock them in. These computers broke down all the time because they were so old,
17 and so everyday one or two students would have to share a computer which essentially meant
18 that one of the students would just sit there and watch the other student type for the whole class
19 period. It was a waste of the students time who had to just sit and watch for the class period.

20 33. None of my classrooms at Oxnard High School have computers for students to
21 use. There are two computer labs at the school, but one of those computer labs is only for the
22 math teachers and their classes. The other computer lab has about twenty-five computers in it,
23 but there are about 3,500 students at Oxnard High School so that means we have one computer
24 for every 140 students. My English teachers often asked for assignments to be typed, and I did
25 not have a computer at my house. During lunch time the computer lab was almost always
26 completely full, and it was really hard to get on a computer. Sometimes I stayed after-school
27 when my teacher would allow me to use her computer, but it just isn't right that there are not
28 computers available for the students to use. We need to have access to the current technology if

1 we want to make it in this world.

2 34. There are not enough counselors at our school, and we do not have a college
3 counselor for the students. In total there are 6 counselors for approximately 3,500 students. In
4 my freshman year during the 1997-1998 school year I was placed in a lower level English class
5 because there are not enough counselors at the school to really take the time to find out what
6 level a student should be in. If the counselors had looked at my eighth grade English report card
7 they would have seen that I had an A in English, and they would have known that I should have
8 been placed in a higher level English class. My whole Freshman year I never saw a counselor.
9 My sophomore year I only saw a counselor because my whole schedule was messed up. Even
10 then I had to wait in a huge line of students for almost an entire school day before I could see my
11 counselor. My junior year I never saw a counselor. My senior year when my calculus class was
12 canceled I went to see my counselor, but I never received college counseling or schedule
13 counseling unsolicited during my entire high school career. In fact I did not know I had to take
14 the SATs until about a month before the deadline to take the SAT test for college. If you want to
15 see a counselor at my school you have to put in a request, and my friends have told me it can take
16 up two weeks to actually get in to see your counselor. When I was applying for college I spoke
17 with my English teacher because I knew how difficult it would be to actually speak with a
18 counselor.

19 35. The bathrooms are horrible at Oxnard High School, and there are not enough of
20 them. Out of the eight bathrooms at the school only three girls bathrooms and three boys
21 bathrooms are open for students to use. These bathrooms rarely have soap, toilet paper, or paper
22 towels, and I would rather hold it if I can than use the bathrooms because they are so dirty and
23 they smell awful. One of two sinks, one of the toilets, and three out of four of the toilet stall
24 doors are broken in the girls bathroom near the library. Because there are not enough bathrooms
25 the line to use the bathroom often goes around the building and it can take between 5 to 10
26 minutes just to get inside to use the bathroom. Often because the bathrooms are so gross and
27 they are so crowded, I would hold it all day and then run straight to the bathroom in my house as
28 soon as I got home. When you have to go to the bathroom all day it is really uncomfortable and

1 it makes it hard to concentrate in class.

2 36. My house is 8 miles from Oxnard High and so I take the bus, but because of
3 overcrowding I have to run to get in line every day so that I can get into a seat. On the bus there
4 are three students shoved into every seat that is supposed to only hold two students. There are
5 not enough buses for all of the students at Oxnard High School. In my freshman year during the
6 1997-1998 school year the students who lived in my neighborhood had to wait an extra thirty
7 minutes after-school before we could get on the bus because there were not enough buses to hold
8 all of the students. First, the bus drivers would fill up their buses with the children who lived
9 near the beach. After they dropped them off they would come back to pick up the children who
10 lived in [REDACTED] . I wish that we had enough buses to take all of the
11 students home at the same time.

12 37. In my sophomore year during the 1998-1999 school year, one of the students in
13 my math class did not speak any English at all and in the first semester he had a teacher who
14 could not speak Spanish and so other students had to help him. The student who could not speak
15 English got really frustrated because he could not understand anything that was going on. In the
16 first two weeks of class the teacher would call on him and he could not understand what she was
17 saying. It was embarrassing for him, and it was a complete waste of his time. Sometimes I
18 would try to help him, but I was also trying to learn and so I could not translate everything for
19 him.

20 38. In my junior year chemistry class during the 1999-2000 school year the roof
21 leaked and so when it was raining the teacher had to put a huge trash can down to collect the rain
22 water. One day we came into the classroom and a tile had fallen right out and onto the floor from
23 where the water had spread and ruined the ceiling. My friends told me that the ceilings in some
24 of their classes also leaked.

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1 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
2 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 23 day of July, 2001 in Oxnard,
3 California.

4 Ana Perez 7/23/01
5 Ana Perez
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