

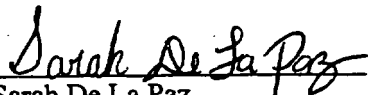
DECLARATION OF SARAH DE LA PAZ

I, Sarah De La Paz, hereby declare:

1. I am 16 years old and in the 11th grade at Watsonville High School located in Watsonville, CA. I also attended Watsonville High School for 9th and 10th grades. 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. One problem at my school is that there are not enough bathrooms in the school for all students. My school is overcrowded and has too many students and so students have to wait too long just to use the toilet. The school also locks the bathrooms during the school day sometimes and students cannot use them.
3. The bathrooms are dirty to the point that I feel uncomfortable using them. Often, they have no toilet paper, soap or seat covers. The toilet seats are sometimes covered with urine and there are soiled sanitary napkins on the floors. Also, about 2 or 3 times a month the toilets overflow, making the problem worse. I do not use the restrooms at my school because I worry that they may be unhealthy or unsafe. Instead, I hold my bladder all day and will use the restrooms only in an emergency. In order to avoid using the school's bathrooms, I sometimes go home or off campus to use other restrooms during lunchtime.

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4. Another problem is that there are not enough textbooks at Watsonville High School. Last year in my Math and World Civilization classes there were not enough textbooks so we were not allowed to take them home for homework. In order to finish our lessons we could not do homework and would have to wait until the next day at school.
5. Another problem at my school is that there are not enough qualified teachers. For instance, in English class last year, I had a substitute teacher for a full year who was trained to teach Physical Education. In English class we would watch MTV in class or talk with friends during the entire period.
6. Ever since I was small, I have wanted to be a lawyer. I am worried though that I will not make it to law school because of the education I am getting.
7. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on October 9, 2001 at Watsonville, California.


Sarah De La Paz