

DECLARATION OF RONALD JONES

1 I, Ronald Jones, hereby declare:

- 2 1. I have been a teacher at Watsonville High School, located in Watsonville,
3 California, for 36 years. I make this declaration based on my own personal
4 knowledge, and if called to testify I could and would do so competently as
5 follows:
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- 7 2. In my time at the school, I have taught Government, International Relations, and
8 Honors Economics classes. The student body at Watsonville High School is
9 comprised predominantly of students of Latino descent. I believe that the current
10 student population at Watsonville High School is approximately 85% Latino
11 students.
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- 13 3. One problem in my classes during the 2000-2001 academic year was a lack of
14 textbooks sufficient to serve the needs of all students. In my Government classes
15 I only had enough books for a class set and students were generally not able to
16 take textbooks home. Although I established an overnight check out system for
17 textbooks, only a limited number of books for overnight use were available and I
18 was unable to provide textbooks for homework to all the students who requested
19 them.
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- 21 4. Additionally, the lack of textbooks meant that as an instructor I was forced to
22 choose between using classroom time for lectures, lessons and discussions and
23 allowing students access to books for homework. Ultimately, I was forced to
24 reduce the amount of material I was able to cover. In addition, the textbooks
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available to students have been outdated. Last year students were using books from 1988.

5. Another problem at Watsonville High School is an inadequate supply of trained, qualified teachers for English Learners. Many of the bilingual teachers do not have bilingual teaching credentials but are teaching at Watsonville High School on an emergency credential basis. Even students who are not English learners do not have fully credentialed teachers. I believe that out of the 150-160 or so teachers at Watsonville High School, over one quarter of these have emergency teaching credentials.
6. Additionally, teachers are sometimes required to teach outside the subject matter areas in which they have been trained to teach. Last year a group of students protested about the quality of instruction offered by a teacher teaching outside his subject matter area. In addition, Watsonville High School suffers from high teacher turnover. In the last 3 years the school has had to replace a large proportion of its teachers.
7. Another problem at Watsonville High School is overcrowding. I believe that Watsonville High School was intended to hold 1800 students and this year the school will house over 3000 students. The school has been forced to use portable classrooms that have been stacked upon one another and due to overcrowding, children are not getting the resources they need to learn. There are so many students in the hallways and classrooms that movement is difficult. This causes children to be late to class and younger students, who are less experienced and in greater need of individual attention, are particularly negatively affected by this

1 overcrowding. It is not enough to merely throw money at schools. Watsonville
2 High School educates a good group of students who do not have severe discipline,
3 gang or drug problems. However, kids can not learn without the resources to
4 teach them properly.

5 8. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
6 foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September 4, 2001 at Watsonville,
7 California.

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10 Ronald Jones
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