

1 DECLARATION OF ISAAC ALEJO

2 I, Isaac Alejo, hereby declare:

3 1. I am 18 years old and a graduate of Watsonville High School located in Watsonville,  
4 California. I attended Watsonville High from 1997 to June 2001. I make this declaration based on  
5 my own personal knowledge, and if called to testify I could and would do so competently as follows:

6 2. A major problem at Watsonville High was the supply and condition of textbooks. For  
7 example, there was only a class set of textbooks for my federal government and economics classes in  
8 my senior year, 2000-2001. About five classes had to share this one class set of textbooks during the  
9 day. The teacher in my federal government class sometimes took two days to finish a lesson that  
10 could have been done in one day if all the students were allowed to take a book home and finish the  
11 lesson on their own as homework. There was a checkout system for taking books home for both of  
12 these classes, but teachers were reluctant to let students take books home on any regular basis  
13 because of the limited number of books and the fear that students would lose the books. Students  
14 were allowed to take books home only if they really needed it, and not usually just for studying. In  
15 addition, if a student did take a book home, she had to return it early in the morning the next day so  
16 that the morning period classes could use it, even if she had the class later in the day and needed to  
17 use the book for a longer time.

18 3. The books we did have in my federal government, economics, and physical science classes  
19 were also in poor condition. Sometimes it was difficult to read the information on a page because  
20 people had written or drawn on the entire page. Pages were also torn from the books. These  
21 textbooks also appeared very old. The economics book appeared to have been from the early 1980s,  
22 judging from both the outdated hair and clothing styles in the photographs. Some of the charts  
23 presented in the book also appeared to have information from the 1970s or 80s.

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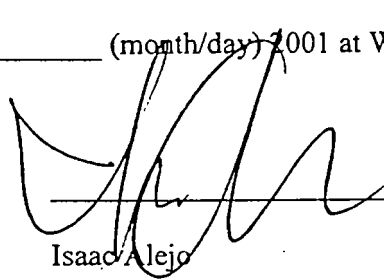
1 4. Overcrowding was another problem at my school. Sometimes students could not get certain  
2 classes needed for graduation or college because they were all full. In my junior year, 1999-2000,  
3 my counselor put me in a business math course that was too easy for me. When I tried to move to  
4 another class, my counselor told me that I had to stay in this easy class because the harder classes  
5 were more crowded. I was angry and disappointed because I stayed in this class and ended up  
6 wasting my time doing math that I already knew, such as adding and subtracting decimals. I also  
7 had problems getting into a physical science class my junior year. I eventually was allowed to take  
8 this class, only because my parents argued with the school to let me in. Overcrowding also affected  
9 our learning because teachers could not always help all the students who needed it. This was the  
10 case in my math class sophomore year, 1998-1999, where the teacher could only help a part of the  
11 class in a given class period because there were too many students who needed assistance.

12 5. Another problem was the quality of teaching due to the lack of permanent teachers in certain  
13 classes. In my freshman year, 1997-1998, my regular Art teacher left the school after the first  
14 semester, and the class ended up having revolving substitutes at least monthly in the second  
15 semester. Assignments were often not graded because new substitutes were coming in so often.  
16 Therefore, the substitute teachers usually did not care how well the assignment was completed as  
17 long as the student did something for the class period. For example, a student could draw a line and  
18 turn it in and the substitute would accept it for credit.

19 6. Bathrooms were another problem at the school. There was often no toilet paper, soap, or  
20 paper towels in the bathrooms. The floors were also wet and disgusting from not being cleaned.  
21 The urinals also appeared to be filthy from not being cleaned enough. In addition, students,  
22 including myself, were often late for classes because during the passing break, there were long lines  
23 to use the bathroom. Sometimes there were as many as ten students waiting in line to use the  
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1 bathroom. This happened because about half of the bathrooms were locked on a given day for some  
2 reason I did not know.

3 7. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing  
4 is true and correct. Executed on 10/25/01 (month/day) 2001 at Watsonville,  
5 California.

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7 Isaac Alejo

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