

1 Declaration of Llarenys Bazan

2 I, Llarenys Bazan, hereby declare:

3 1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to testify  
4 I could and would do so competently as follows:

5 2. I am seventeen years old and am a junior at Fremont High School in Oakland, where  
6 I have been a student since my ninth grade year.

7 3. During my ninth grade physical sciences class, during the 1999-2000 school year, my  
8 class had different substitute teachers every week and we did not get a permanent teacher until the  
9 second semester. Not having a permanent teacher really affected my grade because every substitute  
10 taught differently and had different styles. This was very disruptive because some covered different  
11 subjects, didn't collect any work from us, and others didn't even know how to teach physical  
12 sciences. In my French class of this same year, we had a permanent teacher for the first two weeks  
13 and thereafter had about five different substitutes for almost the rest of the semester. This really  
14 messed up my learning because out of the five substitutes, only one of them actually knew French.  
15 We usually just sat in class and watched movies, so this was a waste of our education.

16 4. In my geometry class of this year, 2001-2002, half of the class has new books and half  
17 has old books. My friend got a very old book that is in very bad condition. Her book is written on  
18 all over and has some pages missing. In my tenth grade English class, during the 2000-2001 school  
19 year, our books were old, written on, and some had torn pages. My algebra class of that same year  
20 also only had a class set of textbooks. We could not take the books home, so for homework we  
21 worked from worksheets. During class we worked from the books, but if we didn't finish our work,  
22 we had to finish it the next day in class. This was a waste of time; if we would have had our own  
23 books we could have finished the work at home and started on a different assignment on the next day.  
24 Also, when you have a book to take home, you can look at examples, review the chapters, and look  
25 ahead. My physical sciences class of my ninth grade, during the 1999-2000 school year, only had a  
26 class set of textbooks. We passed out the books at the beginning of each class and then returned  
27 them at the end of the class period. Because we could not take the books home, we did not have any  
28 homework. If we would have been able to have our own book and take it home, I could have better

1 understood what the teacher taught in class. Even though I really want to study to get ahead in my  
2 academics, I was not able to. Even the class set of books was not enough for all of the students;  
3 about two to three students had to share books. These books were old and ripped up; I remember  
4 some of them had the cover ripped off or torn pages. Once, a book that I was using was so torn that  
5 I could not read the assignment, so I asked a friend to let me read hers. I don't understand why we  
6 have books in this condition; I know that California has money for schools so why can't we have nice  
7 books? My ninth grade English class also only had a class set of books that we were not allowed to  
8 take out of the classroom. Sometimes we had homework from the class set of books, so we had to  
9 complete the homework either from memory of what we read or from notes that we took in class.  
10 We also had novels in this English class that we were able to take home; however, some of the novels  
11 were written on or had torn pages. My ninth grade French class also only had a class set of books.  
12 For homework we completed worksheets and we had to rely on class notes to do the homework. I  
13 would have been able to learn more with my own book because sometimes the teacher is not clear,  
14 and by looking at the examples in the book or by reading ahead I would have been able to better  
15 understand the material. The books that we used in class were very old, torn, and dirty.

16         5.         During the second day of my geometry class of this year, 2001-2002, my teacher gave  
17 all of us a list of materials to buy that included a calculator, ruler and protractor. Not everyone  
18 bought a calculator; about five people simply do not use one or else they ask to borrow other  
19 students' calculators. Our teacher does not have any calculators to lend to students. I don't think  
20 this is right because the school should provide calculators; education is supposed to be free. This also  
21 happened in my math class during my ninth grade, 1999-2000, when my teacher asked us all to buy  
22 calculators. He asked us to buy a specific type of calculator; I spent about \$40 dollars on my  
23 calculator because I did not have a choice to buy a less expensive one.

24         6.         There is also a lack of other learning materials and supplies at Fremont High. During  
25 the 1999-2000 school year, my physical education class did not have enough sports equipment. For  
26 example, we only had one football and one baseball, and when we played, there were three classes  
27 combined in one game, so not everyone participated. If everyone would have played, with only one  
28 ball and three classes, we would have had to wait in line to hit the ball and everyone would have

1 bumped into each other on the field.

2 7. The library at Fremont High does not have enough resources. There are not enough  
3 books, it is not open after school, and there are only about twenty computers for student use. There  
4 are more computers in an upstairs room, but students do not have access to those. I once had a paper  
5 to write and I had to always wait in line until a computer became available.

6 8. In my algebra class of my sophomore year, during the 2000-2001 school year, my  
7 class was overcrowded so there were not enough desks for everyone. For the first couple of days,  
8 about four to five students sat on the floor for the entire class period. I once had to sit on the floor;  
9 it was horrible and very uncomfortable. I kept wanting to lean on a desk to do my work, but I had  
10 to do it on my lap. Also, I couldn't see the board and my neck and back began to hurt. After the first  
11 couple of days some students transferred out, but a couple of students still had to sit on chairs  
12 without desks for about two weeks.

13 9. There is also a big problem with the class temperatures at Fremont High. A couple  
14 of weeks ago I took the PSAT during the first period. The room was so cold that I could not  
15 concentrate; I had to put my arms inside of my sweater to stay warm. My fifth period class this year,  
16 2001-2002, is also very cold sometimes. My ninth grade first period class also got so cold that I kept  
17 my jacket on in class. During the fall and winter, some classrooms get so cold that it's hard for me  
18 to concentrate on the lessons because I try to stay warm.

19 10. The bathrooms at Fremont High are in very bad condition. There are only three  
20 bathrooms that are available for about 800 girls, but only one of them is usually open. There have  
21 been many times when I've needed to use the bathroom and had to look for a janitor to open a  
22 bathroom. During passing periods, there are always long lines to use the bathrooms because there  
23 are only about four stalls in each bathroom, so I'm sometimes late to class. Some of the locks on the  
24 doors do not work, and one of the doors needs to be lifted in order to be able to lock. The bathrooms  
25 do not have any toilet seat covers, there is hardly any toilet paper, and there are no paper towels or  
26 soap. It makes me feel dirty to use these bathrooms; we should have decent bathrooms for our use.

27 11. In my history class this year, 2001-2002, I saw a cockroach on my desk. I was  
28 writing on my desk when I saw a big cockroach walking across my desk. It was horrible and I was

1 disgusted. I also have friends that have told me that they have seen mice and roaches at school. This  
2 is very disturbing because students should not have to see such things at school.

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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 26 day of November, 2001 in Oakland,  
California.



Llarenys Bazan