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2 **BEFORE THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**
3 **STATE OF NEVADA**

4 In Re:
5 Nevada Connections Academy Notice of
6 Closure or Possible Board Reconstitution
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8 **DECLARATION OF VERONICA BERRY**

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10 I, Veronica Berry, hereby declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

11 1. I am the parent of an 11th grade student at Nevada Connections Academy
12 (“NCA”). I make this declaration in support of NCA relative to closure proceedings before the
13 State Public Charter School Authority held on May 25, 26, and 27, 2017, and continued to an
14 unspecified date in 2017.

15 2. The matters set forth in this declaration are based on my own personal knowledge.
16 If called upon to testify, I am competent to testify to the matters set forth herein.

17 3. My son was diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome when he was in the 3rd grade.
18 Elementary school went pretty smoothly, although each year became harder for him to be
19 accepted by his peers because he was “different” and as the others progressed, he did not. There
20 was some bullying and teasing, and it increased through the years. Because his diagnosis is
21 Asperger’s, he struggles with certain social skills. The teachers and counselors told me that it
22 was very important to keep Jesse in school because he needed to be around other children to
23 develop his social skills. So, despite the fact that I wanted to take him out of school because of
24 the bullying and teasing, I went against my better judgement and kept him in school because the
25 teachers and counselors told me that was best for him.
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1 4. Junior High was an entirely different story. I drove him to school, he ran in as the
2 bell rang because he didn't want to give anyone any extra time to pick on him, and I picked him
3 up after school for the same reason. It was breaking my heart more and more every day, but I had
4 to do what they told me was the right thing for him. I felt like I was sending him to the wolves
5 every day. The bullying started within a month of the start of the school year.
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7 5. In the locker room before PE class is where the worst of it was, boys throwing
8 water bottles and other things at him. I asked the PE teacher if he saw any of this, because at the
9 beginning of the year he assured me he watched the boys through his window. The teacher
10 claimed that he did not see anything. Their solution to this was to move Jesse to a row of lockers
11 by himself, so he was away from everyone else, separating him even more from the group that
12 already treated him as an outcast. He missed several days of school after this incident because he
13 was scared. But I sent him back to this school because I was told he "needed" to be around other
14 children for his socialization.
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16 6. The harassing continued, and I went back and forth with the Dean and Principal
17 for months. My son was then cornered in the locker room by a boy who told him he was going to
18 "Slit his throat and feed his head to his dog." He came out of school completely hysterical. I
19 called the Dean the next morning and the Superintendent, who told me that I had to schedule a
20 meeting with the Principal, so I did. I also called the Clark County School District Police and had
21 an officer meet me at the school for the meeting. The Principal did not seem to take the incident
22 seriously, so I filed a police report. I was told the boy would be removed from the class, but he
23 was not. I called the Dean, who had Jesse spend the next few days sitting in her office or the
24 library during PE class, once again causing him to be treated as an outcast. When the semester
25 was over, Jesse moved to health class, and that same boy was in his health class too. My concern
26 increased at this apparent disregard for his safety.
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