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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 J. BERRY**

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

11 1. I am an 11th grade student at Nevada Connections Academy (“NCA”). I make
12 this declaration in support of NCA relative to closure proceedings before the State Public Charter
13 School Authority held on May 25, 26, and 27, 2017, and continued to an unspecified date in
14 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 mom took me out of traditional brick and mortar school and enrolled me at
18 NCA when I was in 6th grade for my safety. At my previous school, I never felt safe, I was
19 bullied every day, and my life was even threatened. The principal and dean did not protect me.
20 They did not remove the bully who threatened me from my class. When my mom filed a police
21 report to protect me, the principal told me: “Now see what you have started?” The bullying was
22 so bad that my mom would drop me off at school when the bell rang and I would run to class so
23 no one would have time to do anything to me before school, and she would pick me up at my last
24 class so no one would have time to do anything to me after school. We were both afraid
25 something would happen to me. I had no friends I could talk to. I was starting to think there was
26 only one way to stop this.
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4. Nevada Connections Academy literally saved my life. Since I started Nevada Connections Academy in the seventh grade, everything in my life has been great. I am getting good grades, I go on field trips, I have friends, and I even made a best friend. No more bullying and no more feeling unsafe.

5. The teachers and staff at NCA have always treated me like a real person instead of a number. Every time I see Mrs. Malabago, Mrs. Sill, Mr. Smith, Ms. McEaddy, Mr. Wolfe, and so many others, they talk, and more importantly, listen to me. They really care about me and my success. They want me to graduate, and they care about my future.

6. I am going to graduate next year from NCA. I would not be able to do it without the amazing teachers at NCA, and of course without my family. There is no way this would have been possible for me in a traditional brick and mortar school.

7. Please do not close NCA and take away my chance at graduating, because with NCA, there is no other option for me and others like me. If NCA closes, my hopes and dreams of graduating will vanish along with the school.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and corrected and was executed this 11th day of June, 2017, in LAS VEGAS, Nevada.

J. BERRY
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