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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 MICHELLE NELSON**

9 I, Michelle Nelson, hereby declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

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

14 2. The matters set forth in this declaration are based on my own personal knowledge.  
15 If called upon to testify, I am competent to testify to the matters set forth herein.  
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17 3. I am a lifetime resident of this great state of Nevada. I am very concerned about  
18 the State Public Charter School Authority's misguided decision to try and disrupt operations of  
19 Nevada Connections Academy. Our state has continued issues with education, consistently  
20 ranking near the bottom of all sorts of polls. Numbers don't really matter to me – what does  
21 matter to me is my child and the education she is receiving.  
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23 4. My daughter is almost 17 years old. In 2014, she fell ill with what we thought  
24 was epilepsy. What has gone on for the past three years can only be described as every parent's  
25 worst nightmare. My once very active daughter has become a slave to a yet undiagnosed disorder  
26 that has robbed her of many things – body function, a pain free existence, a normal teen life, and  
27 most of her friends. When we had to pull her from her traditional public school in the Clark  
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1 County School District ("CCSD") mid-semester due to her extreme health issues, the CCSD  
2 option for online school refused to enroll her and told us that she should just fail the current  
3 semester, start with them second semester, and take remedial/makeup courses in the summer.  
4 That is ridiculous, would be expensive, and it would make it difficult to impossible for her to  
5 catch up. Who on earth would expect someone to pass 2nd semester Geometry after failing the  
6 first half? We were extremely distraught and disappointed that our zoned school was turning us  
7 away like this.  
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9 5. My daughter was an honors student before all of this began, and I was adamant  
10 that I would not let the disease rob her of one more thing. We researched and found Nevada  
11 Connections Academy, who was willing to take her, work with her 504, and help her succeed.  
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13 6. My daughter IS succeeding through NCA and currently finishing up 11<sup>th</sup> grade  
14 and will be a senior next year, putting her on track to graduate with her peers, despite severe  
15 medical issues. She has also maintained a 4.0 GPA and entered Honor Society. This would not  
16 have been possible at her CCSD school due to her health issues, and she would have become  
17 extremely credit-deficient in that environment. Instead, we found NCA, where teachers are  
18 accommodating of my daughter's health issues, rearranging deadlines when her medical issues  
19 prevented her from meeting them. This allowed her to absorb the information on her own time  
20 and maintain straight A's despite her health obstacles. We have found NCA's program to be  
21 extremely structured and in most cases, she is learning more than she would have from in-person  
22 classes at her zoned school. Her teachers are also responsive to her educational needs and make  
23 themselves available to her when she needs help.  
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25 7. Our experience at Nevada Connections Academy has been good and eliminating  
26 or interfering with this option for our daughter to receive her education would cause her and us  
27 and we believe other students in the state irreparable harm.  
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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 9th day of June, 2017, in Henderson, Clark, Nevada.



MICHELLE NELSON