To the Nevada State Board of Health,

I would like to offer comment on the following action item:

"Consideration and Possible Adoption of Proposed Emergency Statement and Emergency Regulation Amendment of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 441A.755, relating to university, community college and state college students providing proof of immunity to certain communicable diseases, including COVID-19."

I support requiring proof of vaccination for on-campus college students or for individual campuses to be given the opportunity to determine their own vaccination policies.

As the Writing Center Director at Nevada State College, I need to be on campus to support students who use in-person services. If students are present, I and my 19-person staff of undergraduate peer tutors must be present to serve the student body. At the same time, I am a mom with two unvaccinated children and two parents who are in the process of fighting cancer. Please do not ask that I risk their lives or endanger their long-term health so that I can continue doing the job I love.

Currently, my four-year-old daughter is required to be vaccinated for DTaP, MMR, Varicella, the Flu, Polio, Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis B before attending pre-K. We, as a society, have agreed on these measures for the common good, and the COVID-19 vaccine should be no different. As with other vaccine regulations, individuals can make their own choices. Homeschooling is an option, as is remote college learning. The difference is that the default becomes one that values and protects human life.

Please give our campus community the opportunity to require COVID-19 vaccination for oncampus students. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rachel Herzl-Betz Writing Center Director Assistant Professor of English