



STATE OF NEVADA

BEFORE THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re **Maria Sauter**,
Program Administer,
Nevada Department of Education,
State of Nevada,

Ethics Complaint
Case No. 25-023C
Confidential

Subject. /

REVIEW PANEL DETERMINATION

NRS 281A.730; NAC 281A.440

The Nevada Commission on Ethics ("Commission") initiated the above-entitled Ethics Complaint ("Complaint") on February 24, 2025, regarding the alleged conduct of Subject Maria Sauter ("Sauter") and instructed the Executive Director to investigate alleged violations of NRS 281A.400(2) and (10), and NRS 281A.420(1).¹

During all material times, Sauter was a public employee as defined in NRS 281A.150. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to NRS 281A.280 because the allegations contained in the Complaint relate to Sauter's conduct as a public employee and associated implications under the Ethics Law.

On May 20, 2025, a Review Panel consisting of Commissioners Reynolds (Presiding Officer), Lowry and Miller considered the following: (1) Ethics Complaint; (2) Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation; (3) Sauter's Response; and (4) Executive Director's Recommendation to the Review Panel with Summary of Investigatory Findings and Relevant Evidentiary Exhibits.²

The Review Panel unanimously finds and concludes the facts and evidence obtained during the investigation do not establish credible evidence that Subject failed to comply with the requirements of NRS 281A.400(2) or (10) or NRS 281A.420(1), and do not support a determination that just and sufficient cause exists for the matter to be referred to the Commission to render an opinion. However, in the interest of the Commission's purpose to help warn public employees in certain circumstances, the issuance of a Confidential Letter of Caution is appropriate to ensure Subject is aware of her ongoing duties under the Ethics Law.

¹ The Commission has legal authority under NRS 281A.710(1)(c) to initiate an Ethics Complaint upon on its own motion. See *also* NAC 281A.403.

² All materials provided to the Review Panel, except the Ethics Complaint and the Order on Jurisdiction and Investigation, represent portions of the investigatory file and remain confidential pursuant to NRS 281A.755.

Upon the issuance of the Confidential Letter of Caution, Ethics Complaint 25-023C is hereby dismissed.

DATED: this 20th day of May, 2025.

REVIEW PANEL OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

By: /s/ Terry J. Reynolds
Terry J. Reynolds
Commissioner (Presiding Officer)

By: /s/ Teresa Lowry, Esq.
Teresa Lowry, Esq.
Commissioner

By: /s/ John Miller
John Miller
Commissioner