1 DEEPAK GUPTA\* REC'D & FILED MATTHEW W.H. WESSLER\* 2 **JONATHAN E. TAYLOR\*** 2024 月開 - 7 PM 4:21 THOMAS SCOTT-RAILTON\* 3 WILLIAM BOOM HOEN JESSICA GARLAND\* Electronically Filed **GUPTA WESSLER LLP** 4 Jun 11 2024 03:17 PM 2001 K Street, NW 5 flizabeth A. Brown Washington, DC 20001 Clerk of Supreme Court (202) 888-1741 6 deepak@guptawessler.com 7 ALEX VELTO (NBN 14961) 8 NATHAN RING (NBN 12078) REESE RING VELTO PLLC 9 200 S. Virginia Street, Suite 655 Reno, NV 89501 10 (775) 446-8096 11 (775) 249-7864 (fax) alex@rrvlawyers.com 12 nathan@rrvlawyers.com 13 Counsel for the Plaintiffs 14 \* admitted pro hac vice 15 IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 16 OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY 17 UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS 18 FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY and Case No. 24-OC-000561B NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION, 19 Plaintiffs, Dept. No. 1 20 VS. 21 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware 22 corporation; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN NOTICE OF APPEAL GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, and TIA WHITE, 23 individuals; "NEVADANS FOR FAIR 24 RECOVERY," a registered Nevada political action committee; and FRANCISCO 25 AGUILAR, in his official capacity as Nevada Secretary of State, 26 Defendants. 27 28

#### Notice of Appeal

Plaintiffs Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability and Nevada Justice Association, by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby appeal to the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada the First Judicial District Court's Corrected Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order Denying Plaintiffs' Legal Challenge to Initiative Petition S-04-2024, which was entered on May 13, 2024.

A true and correct copy of the district court's corrected order is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Court's initial order, which was subsequently corrected, is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

#### **Affirmation**

Pursuant to NRS 239B.030(1) and NRS 603A.040, undersigned counsel hereby affirm that the foregoing notice of appeal does not contain the personal information of any person.

Dated this 7th day of June 2024

ALEX VELTO (NBN 14961)
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Admitted in New York; practicing under direct supervision of members of the District of Columbia Bar under Rule 49(c)(8).

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the law firm of Reese Ring Velto, PLLC and that on the 7th day of June 2024, I caused service a true and correct copy of the **NOTICE OF APPEAL** by via US Mail addressed to the following:

BRADLEY S. SCHRAGER, ESQ. (NBN 10217) DANIEL BRAVO, ESQ. (NBN 13078) BRAVO SCHRAGER LLLP 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

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Attorneys for Defendants UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, TIA WHITE, and NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY

Counsel for Nevada Secretary of State

An employee of Reese Ring Velto, PLLC

### EXHIBIT INDEX

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В	Notice of Entry of Findings of Fact And Conclusions of Law And Order Denying Plaintiffs' Legal Challenge To Initiative Petition S-04-2024	14

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# **EXHIBIT A**

REC'D&riL... BRADLEY S. SCHRAGER, ESQ. (SBN 10217) DANIEL BRAVO, ESQ. (SBN 13078) 2 BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP 2024 HAY 15 PM 1: 17 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 WILLIAM SOUTT MOTH CLERK Tele.: (702) 996-1724 Email: bradley@bravoschrager.com Email: daniel@bravoschrager.com DEPUTY 5 Attorneys for Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, 6 Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery 7 IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 8 OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY 9 UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT BRAYO SOTERACER Case No.: 24 OC 00056 1B SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL 11 ACCOUNTABILITY and NEVADA Dept. No.: I JUSTICE ASSOCIATION, 12 NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER 13 Plaintiffs, 14 VS. 15 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware corporation; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, and TIA WHITE, individuals; "NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY," a registered Nevada political action committee; and FRANCISCO AGUILAR, in his official 19 capacity as Nevada Secretary of State, 20 Defendants. 21 22 23 111 24 | / / / 25 || / / / 26 | / / / 27 1/// 28 1///

## NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CORRECTED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024 was entered in the above-captioned matter on the 13th day of May, 2024. A true and correct copy of the Order is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

### **AFFIRMATION**

The undersigned hereby affirm that the foregoing document does not contain the social security number of any person.

DATED this 13th day of May, 2024.

## BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP

By:

BRADLEY S. SCHRAGER, ESQ. (SBN 10217) DANIEL BRAVO, ESQ. (SBN 13078)

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Attorneys for Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

2 I hereby certify that on this 13th day of May, 2024, I served the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER by depositing a true copy of the same via 3 electronic mail, per the April 16, 2024, Stipulation, as follows: 4 5 Laena St Jules, Esq. Office of the Attorney General 6

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### INDEX OF EXHIBITS

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NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

# **EXHIBIT A**

REC'D & FILED 2024 HAY 13 AM 6: 33

WILLIAM SCOTT HOEH

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff.

DELAWARE CORPORATION; MATT

AND TIA WHITE, INDIVIDUALS; NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY, A REGISTERED NEVADA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE; AND FRANCISCO AGUILAR, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE,

GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES,

Case No.: 24 OC 00056 1B

Dept No. 1

13 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., A

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Defendant CORRECTED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024

This matter came before this Court following a complaint filed by Plaintiffs Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability and Nevada Justice Association (collectively "Plaintiffs") challenging the legal sufficiency of Initiative Petition S-04-2024 (the "Petition").

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS

 295.061. After briefing according to a schedule to which the parties stipulated, the Court held a hearing on May 6, 2024, regarding Plaintiffs' legal challenge to the Petition.

As indicated by this Court in all initiative hearings, this Court takes no position as to the merit of the initiative but seeks to determine if the requirements of NRS 295.009, et al and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

Initially, the Court would note that Plaintiffs have made strong argument's as to the initiative having the effect of precluding access to legal counsel, reducing the reimbursement to the State Medicaid fund, and changing the calculation of contingent fees by removal of medical expenses from the calculations thereof. All of these arguments against the initiative may or may not have merit, but are not germane to whether the requirements of NRS 295.009 and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

The Court, having reviewed the papers and pleadings on file, considered the matter, being fully advised, and good cause appearing, finds, concludes, and orders as follows:

## FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW!

### FINDINGS OF FACT

### 1. Initiative Petition S-04-2024

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. The Petition seeks to amend Title 1, Chapter 7 of the Nevada Revised Statutes by adding a new section thereto that seeks to limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

Any findings of fact which are more appropriately considered conclusions of law shall be treated as such, and any conclusions of law which are more appropriately considered findings of fact shall be treated as such.

 The Petition includes a description of effect as required by NRS 295.009(1)(b), which reads, in full:

If enacted, this initiative will limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive as a contingency fee in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

In Nevada currently, most civil cases do not limit an attorney's contingent fee percentages, except that such fees must be reasonable. Current law does, however, limit attorney fees in medical malpractice cases to 35% of any recovery, and caps contingency fees for a private attorney contracted to represent the State of Nevada to 25% of the total amount recovered.

### 2. Procedural History

On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS 295.061, challenging the legal sufficiency of the Petition. On April 12, Plaintiffs filed a memorandum in support of their complaint.

On April 16, the parties stipulated to, and the Court ordered, a briefing schedule for this matter. On April 19, Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery (collectively, "Defendants") filed a response memorandum. After briefing, this Court held a hearing on the matter on May 6.

As an initial matter, it is important to state that at hearing both parties agreed that in a preelection challenge to an initiative petition, the only issues for the Court concern whether the Petition complies with the requirements of NRS 295.009 and any pertinent procedural provisions of Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution. The Court does not inquire into, and does not consider, either the substantive validity of the proposal or the positive or negative qualities, as policy, of its provisions.

## B. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

## 1. The Petition Does Not Violate Nevada's Single Subject Rule

NRS 295.009(1) provides that "[e]ach petition for initiative or referendum must ... [c]mbrace but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto." Subsection 2 of that statute explains that an initiative "embraces but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto, if the parts of the proposed initiative ... are functionally related and germane to each other in a way that provides sufficient notice of the general subject of, and of the interests likely to be affected by, the proposed initiative." NRS 295.009(2).

The single-subject requirement "facilitates the initiative process by preventing petition drafters from circulating confusing petitions that address multiple subjects." Nevadans for the Process of Prop. Rights, Inc. v. Heller, 122 Nev. 894, 902, 141 P.3d 1235, 1240 (2006). Thus, "the single-subject requirement helps both in promoting informed decisions and in preventing the enactment of unpopular provisions by attaching them to more attractive proposals or concealing them in lengthy, complex initiatives (i.e., logrolling)." Las Vegas Taxpayer Accountability Comte. v. City Council of City of Las Vegas, 125 Nev. 165, 176-77, 208 P.3d 429, 436-37 (2009).

In considering single-subject challenges, courts must first determine the initiative's purpose or subject. "To determine the initiative's purpose or subject, this court looks to its textual language and the proponents' arguments." Las Vegas Taxpayer, 125 Nev. at 180, 208 P.3d at 439. Courts also will look at whether the description of effect articulates an overarching purpose and explains how provisions relate to a single subject. Id.

Furthermore, and most recently, in *Helton v. Nevada Voters First PAC*, 138 Nev. Adv. Op. 45, 512 P.3d 309 (2022), the Nevada Supreme Court stated that "even if an initiative petition proposes more than one change, each of which could be brought in separate initiative petitions, the proper consideration is whether the changes are functionally related and germane to each other and the petition's subject." *Id.*, 512 P.3d at 314. The Court found that "(b)oth categories of changes proposed in the ... initiative concern the election process in Nevada and more specifically how

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candidates for the specifically defined partisan offices are presented to voters and elected." Id., 512 P.3d at 314-15.

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In this case, the Court finds that the primary purpose of the Petition, clear from both its text and the description of effect, is the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases. Further, the Court finds that the Petition's text, its description of effect, and the arguments of the Defendants in briefing and at hearing confirm the Petition's primary purpose. And unlike the petition at issue in Helton, for example, the Petition does not appear to present multiple changes that could be considered to be unrelated in any event. Section 1 sets out the substantive purpose of the proposal. Section 2 describes the scope of Section 1's proposal; and Section 3 provides a definition of "recovered," for purposes of the proposed new statute. All three sections of the Petition, therefore are functionally related and germane both to the primary purpose of the Petition and to one another

The Court is unconvinced by Plaintiffs' arguments because Plaintiffs have not identified multiple "subjects" under any reading of Nevada statutory or case law authority. For example, the fact that the term "civil cases" covers more than one type of civil action does not constitute a single-subject violation, because the primary purpose of the Petition is the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases generally. See, e.g., Nev. R. Civ. Proc., 1, 2, and 3.

The Court finds the Petition does not violate NRS 295.009(1)(a)'s single-subject requirement.

## 2. The Petition Does Not Violate Article 19, Section 3's "Full-Text" Requirement

Under Article 19, Section 3 of the Nevada Constitution, proponents must "include the full text of the measure proposed" with a filed initiative petition. Nev. Const. art. 19, § 3. Plaintiffs contend that some other statutory text beyond that which proponents have proposed should be included with the Petition, because they speculate that the Petition, should it become law, may

See Helton, 512 P.3d at 315 n.5: "A subject is the overall thing being discussed, whereas a change is the alteration or modification of existing law. See 'Subject,' Black's Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019) (defining "subject" as "[t]he matter of concern over which something is created")."

have some future effect on those other provisions of law. The Court disagrees that this is what Article 19, Section 3 requires, and finds that every provision that is proposed to be circulated for signatures and to be considered by the electorate is included with the filed Petition, and that therefore there is no violation of the full-text requirement. To rule otherwise would not only be speculative, but would interfere unnecessarily with the people's right to the initiative power, if each proposed petition had also to contain the text of any and all other laws that might possibly be affected by the petition's enactment.

#### 3, The Petition's Description Of Effect Is Legally Adequate

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9 Under NRS 295.009(1)(b), every initiative must "[s]et forth, in not more than 200 words, a description of the effect of the initiative or referendum if the initiative or referendum is approved 10 by the voters." The purpose of the description is to "prevent voter confusion and promote informed 11 decisions." Nevadans for Nev. v. Beers, 122 Nev. 930, 939, 142 P.3d 339, 345 (2006). Thus, "[t]he 12 importance of the description of effect cannot be minimized, as it is what the voters see when 13 deciding whether to even sign a petition." Coal. For Nev.'s Future v. RIP Com. Tax, Inc., No. 14 69501, 2016 WL 2842925 at \*2 (2016) (unpublished disposition) (citing Educ. Initiative PAC v. Comm. To Protect Nev. Jobs, 129 Nev. 35, 37, 293 P.3d 874, 876 (2013)). "[T]he description of effect may hold even more impact with respect to a referendum, since merely gathering sufficient signatures to place a referendum on the ballot guarantees a change to the law regardless of the election's outcome." Id. (citing Nev. Const. art. 19, § 1(3) (providing that, if the voters approve the referendum, the statute "shall stand as the law of the state and shall not be amended, annulled, repealed, set aside, suspended or in any way made inoperative except by the direct vote of the people," and if the voters disapprove the statute or resolution, it is rendered void)).

The Nevada Supreme Court has repeatedly held that "a description of effect must be straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative, and it must not be deceptive or misleading. Educ. Initiative PAC, 129 Nev. at 42, 293 P.3d at 879 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). It must also "explain the[] ramifications of the proposed amendment" in order to allow

voters to make an informed decision. Nev. Judges Ass'n v. Lau, 112 Nev. 51, 59, 910 P.2d 898, 903 (1996).

This Court finds that the Petition's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law. The description of effect is straightforward, succinct, under 200 words, and there is no basis for a finding of any argumentative language as written. The Court finds that Plaintiffs fail to meet their burden of showing that the Petition's description of effect does not comply with NRS 295.009.

With their Complaint, Plaintiffs filed numerous declarations regarding the opinions of multiple persons in various fields regarding what Plaintiffs believe may be the eventual effects of the Petition should it one day become law, including what they contend are potential effects on government programs, like Medicaid, that can receive reimbursement funds through subrogation claims upon settlement or damages awards at the conclusion of civil actions. The Court makes no findings regarding the truth or falsity of the claims in Plaintiffs' declarations, but believes these sorts of potential effect to be too speculative and hypothetical to be required to be included in the Petition's description. Most of the speculative effects Plaintiffs identify "do not concern the initiative's primary goal," and instead "involve how the initiative may apply in a variety of hypothetical situations." Nevadans for Reproductive Freedom v. Washington, 140 Nev. Adv. Op. 28, 2024 WL 1688083, at \*5 (Nev. Apr. 18, 2024).

Furthermore, these and any other perceived effects of the Petition upon which Plaintiffs or their declarants opine can be the subject of political speech, lobbying efforts, or campaign materials in opposition to the passage and enactment of the Petition when, and if, it is transmitted to the Nevada Legislature or qualifies for placement on the ballot at a general election ballot. As the Supreme Court has noted, "the description of effect ... does not serve as the full, detailed explanation, including arguments for and against, that voters receive prior to a general election," and "once enough signatures have been gathered to place the initiative on the ballot, the Secretary of State will draft a neutral summary of the initiative, which does not have a word limit, and committees will draft arguments for and against the passage of the initiative, both of which will be

 placed on the ballot, instead of the description of effect." *Helton*, 512 P.3d at 317 n.6. (citing *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 39-40).

Additionally, because the description of effect of an initiative petition is, by law, limited in length, it cannot constitutionally be required to delineate every downstream effect that an initiative may have; to conclude otherwise could obstruct, rather than facilitate, the people's right to the initiative process. Educ. Initiative PAC, 129 Nev. at 38. In the words of the Nevada Supreme Court, "an opponent of a ballot initiative [can often] identify some perceived effect of an initiative that is not explained by the description of effect, challenge the initiative in district court, and block the people's right to the initiative process." But the "[s]tatutes enacted to facilitate the initiative process cannot be interpreted so strictly as to halt the process." Educ. Initiative PAC, 129 Nev. at 47.

The Court finds the description of effect of the Petition satisfies Nevada's NRS 295.009 requirements, as the plain language of the description is straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative.

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Nevada's single subject rule.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Article 19, Section 3.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs' challenges to Initiative Petition S-04-2023 are rejected, and Plaintiffs' complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_day of May, 2024.

JAMES T. RUSSELL'
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the First Judicial District 2 Court, and that on May 3 \_, 2024, I deposited for mailing, postage paid, at Carson City, Nevada, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order addressed as follows: 5 Alex Velto, Esq. 6 Nathan Ring, Esq. 7 Reese Ring Velto PLLC 200 S Virginia Street, Suite 655 8 Reno, NV 89501 alex@rrvlawers.com nathan@rrvlawvers.com 10 Deepak Gupta, Esq. 11 Matthew W.H. Wessler, Esq. Jonathan E. Taylor, Esq. 12 Thomas Scott-Railton, Esq. 13 Jessica Garland, Esq. Gupta Wessler, LLP 14 2001 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 15 deepak@guptawessler.com 16 Bradley S. Schrager, Esq. 17 Daniel Bravo, Esq. Bravo Schrager LLP 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 19 Las Vegas, NV 89113 bradlev@bravoschrager.com 20 daniel@bravoschrager.com 21 Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General 22 Laena St-Jules, Senior Deputy Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 23 100 North Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701-4717 lstjules@ag.nv.gov

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Judicial Assistant, Dept. 1

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## **EXHIBIT B**

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY Case No.: 24 OC 00056 1B

Dept. No.: I

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

#### 1 NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER 2 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024 was entered in the above-4 captioned matter on the 10th day of May, 2024. A true and correct copy of the Order 5 is attached hereto as Exhibit A. 6 7 **AFFIRMATION** The undersigned hereby affirm that the foregoing document does not contain 8 the social security number of any person. 9 10 DATED this 10th day of May, 2024. 11 BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP 12 By: 13 BRADLEY S. SCHRAGER, ESQ. (SBN 10217) 14 DANIEL BRAVO, ESQ. (SBN 13078) 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 15 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Tele.: (702) 996-1724 16 Email: bradley@bravoschrager.com Email: daniel@bravoschrager.com 17 Attorneys for Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt 18 Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 10th day of May, 2024, I served the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER by depositing a true copy of the same via electronic mail, per the April 16, 2024, Stipulation, as follows:

Deepak Gupta, Esq.
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Jonathan E. Taylor, Esq.
Thomas Scott-Railton, Esq.
Jessica Garland, Esq.
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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

By: Dannielle Fresquez, an Employee of BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP

### INDEX OF EXHIBITS

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A	Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order Denying Plaintiffs' Legal Challenge to Initiative Petition S-04-2024	10

# **EXHIBIT A**

REC'D & FILEL

2024 MAY 10 AM 8: 24

WILLIAM SCOTT HOEN

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AND TIA WHITE, INDIVIDUALS; NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY, A REGISTERED NEVADA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE; AND FRANCISCO AGUILAR, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE,

GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES,

UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND

NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff.

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., A DELAWARE CORPORATION; MATT

Defendant

Case No.: 24 OC 00056 1B

Dept No. 1

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

### FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024

This matter came before this Court following a complaint filed by Plaintiffs Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability and Nevada Justice Association (collectively) "Plaintiffs") challenging the legal sufficiency of Initiative Petition S-04-2024 (the "Petition").

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS

III

295.061. After briefing according to a schedule to which the parties stipulated, the Court held a hearing on May 6, 2024, regarding Plaintiffs' legal challenge to the Petition.

As indicated by this Court in all initiative hearings, this Court takes no position as to the merit of the initiative but seeks to determine if the requirements of NRS 295.009, et al and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

Initially, the Court would note that Plaintiffs have made strong argument's as to the initiative having the effect of precluding access to legal counsel, reducing the reimbursement to the State Medicaid fund, and changing the calculation of contingent fees by removal of medical expenses from the calculations thereof. All of these arguments against the initiative may or may not have merit, but are not dermane to whether the requirements of NRS 295.009 and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

The Court, having reviewed the papers and pleadings on file, considered the matter, being fully advised, and good cause appearing, finds, concludes, and orders as follows:

## FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW1

### A. FINDINGS OF FACT

### 1. Initiative Petition S-04-2024

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. The Petition seeks to amend Title 1, Chapter 7 of the Nevada Revised Statutes by adding a new section thereto that seeks to limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

Any findings of fact which are more appropriately considered conclusions of law shall be treated as such, and any conclusions of law which are more appropriately considered findings of fact shall be treated as such.

The Petition includes a description of effect as required by NRS 295.009(1)(b), which reads, in full:

If enacted, this initiative will limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive as a contingency fee in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

In Nevada currently, most civil cases do not limit an attorney's contingent fee percentages, except that such fees must be reasonable. Current law does, however, limit attorney fees in medical malpractice cases to 35% of any recovery, and caps contingency fees for a private attorney contracted to represent the State of Nevada to 25% of the total amount recovered.

### 2. Procedural History

On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS 295.061, challenging the legal sufficiency of the Petition. On April 12, Plaintiffs filed a memorandum in support of their complaint.

On April 16, the parties stipulated to, and the Court ordered, a briefing schedule for this matter. On April 19, Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles. Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery (collectively, "Defendants") filed a response memorandum. After briefing, this Court held a hearing on the matter on May 6.

As an initial matter, it is important to state that at hearing both parties agreed that in a preelection challenge to an initiative petition, the only issues for the Court concern whether the Petition complies with the requirements of NRS 295.009 and any pertinent procedural provisions of Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution. The Court does not inquire into, and does not consider, either the substantive validity of the proposal or the positive or negative qualities, as policy, of its provisions.

### B. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

### 1. The Petition Does Not Violate Nevada's Single Subject Rule

NRS 295.009(1) provides that "[e]ach petition for initiative or referendum must ... [e]mbrace but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto." Subsection 2 of that statute explains that an initiative "embraces but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto, if the parts of the proposed initiative ... are functionally related and germane to each other in a way that provides sufficient notice of the general subject of, and of the interests likely to be affected by, the proposed initiative." NRS 295.009(2).

The single-subject requirement "facilitates the initiative process by preventing petition drafters from circulating confusing petitions that address multiple subjects." Nevadans for the Proceed of Prop. Rights, Inc. v. Heller, 122 Nev. 894, 902, 141 P.3d 1235, 1240 (2006). Thus, "the single-subject requirement helps both in promoting informed decisions and in preventing the enactment of unpopular provisions by attaching them to more attractive proposals or concealing them in lengthy, complex initiatives (i.e., logrolling)." Las Vegas Taxpayer Accountability Comte. v. City Council of City of Las Vegas, 125 Nev. 165, 176-77, 208 P.3d 429, 436-37 (2009).

In considering single-subject challenges, courts must first determine the initiative's purpose or subject. "To determine the initiative's purpose or subject, this court looks to its textual language and the proponents' arguments." Las Vegas Taxpayer, 125 Nev. at 180, 208 P.3d at 439. Courts also will look at whether the description of effect articulates an overarching purpose and explains how provisions relate to a single subject. Id.

Furthermore, and most recently, in *Helton v. Nevada Voters First PAC*, 138 Nev. Adv. Op. 45, 512 P.3d 309 (2022), the Nevada Supreme Court stated that "even if an initiative petition proposes more than one change, each of which could be brought in separate initiative petitions, the proper consideration is whether the changes are functionally related and germane to each other and the petition's subject." *Id.*, 512 P.3d at 314. The Court found that "(b)oth categories of changes proposed in the ... initiative concern the election process in Nevada and more specifically how

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candidates for the specifically defined partisan offices are presented to voters and elected." Id., 512 P.3d at 314-15.

In this case, the Court finds that the primary purpose of the Petition, clear from both its text and the description of effect, is the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases. Further, the Cour finds that the Petition's text, its description of effect, and the arguments of the Defendants in briefing and at hearing confirm the Petition's primary purpose. And unlike the petition at issue in Helton, for example, the Petition does not appear to present multiple changes that could be considered to be unrelated in any event. Section 1 sets out the substantive purpose of the proposal Section 2 describes the scope of Section 1's proposal; and Section 3 provides a definition of "recovered," for purposes of the proposed new statute. All three sections of the Petition, therefore, are functionally related and germane both to the primary purpose of the Petition and to one another

The Court is unconvinced by Plaintiffs' arguments because Plaintiffs have not identified multiple "subjects" under any reading of Nevada statutory or case law authority.2 For example, the fact that the term "civil cases" covers more than one type of civil action does not constitute a single-subject violation, because the primary purpose of the Petition is the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases generally. See, e.g., Nev. R. Civ. Proc., 1, 2, and 3.

The Court finds the Petition does not violate NRS 295.009(1)(a)'s single-subject requirement.

#### 2. The Petition Does Not Violate Article 19, Section 3's "Full-Text" Requirement

Under Article 19, Section 3 of the Nevada Constitution, proponents must "include the full text of the measure proposed" with a filed initiative petition. Nev. Const. art. 19, § 3. Plaintiffs contend that some other statutory text beyond that which proponents have proposed should be included with the Petition, because they speculate that the Petition, should it become law, may

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See Helton, 512 P.3d at 315 n.5: "A subject is the overall thing being discussed, whereas a change is the alteration or modification of existing law. See 'Subject,' Black's Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019) (defining "subject" as "[t]he matter of concern over which something is created")."

have some future effect on those other provisions of law. The Court disagrees that this is what Article 19, Section 3 requires, and finds that every provision that is proposed to be circulated for signatures and to be considered by the electorate is included with the filed Petition, and that therefore there is no violation of the full-text requirement. To rule otherwise would not only be speculative, but would interfere unnecessarily with the people's right to the initiative power, if each proposed petition had also to contain the text of any and all other laws that might possibly be affected by the petition's enactment.

## 3. The Petition's Description Of Effect Is Legally Adequate

Under NRS 295.009(1)(b), every initiative must "[s]et forth, in not more than 200 words, a description of the effect of the initiative or referendum if the initiative or referendum is approved by the voters." The purpose of the description is to "prevent voter confusion and promote informed decisions." Nevadans for Nev. v. Beers, 122 Nev. 930, 939, 142 P.3d 339, 345 (2006). Thus, "[t]he importance of the description of effect cannot be minimized, as it is what the voters see when deciding whether to even sign a petition." Coal. For Nev.'s Future v. RIP Com. Tax, Inc., No. 69501, 2016 WL 2842925 at \*2 (2016) (unpublished disposition) (citing Educ. Initiative PAC v. Comm. To Protect Nev. Jobs, 129 Nev. 35, 37, 293 P.3d 874, 876 (2013)). "[T]he description of effect may hold even more impact with respect to a referendum, since merely gathering sufficient signatures to place a referendum on the ballot guarantees a change to the law regardless of the election's outcome." Id. (citing Nev. Const. art. 19, § 1(3) (providing that, if the voters approve the referendum, the statute "shall stand as the law of the state and shall not be amended, annulled repealed, set aside, suspended or in any way made inoperative except by the direct vote of the people," and if the voters disapprove the statute or resolution, it is rendered void)).

The Nevada Supreme Court has repeatedly held that "a description of effect must be straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative, and it must not be deceptive or misleading." Educ. Initiative PAC, 129 Nev. at 42, 293 P.3d at 879 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). It must also "explain the ramifications of the proposed amendment" in order to allow

voters to make an informed decision. Nev. Judges Ass'n v. Lau, 112 Nev. 51, 59, 910 P.2d 898, 903 (1996).

This Court finds that the Petition's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law. The description of effect is straightforward, succinct, under 200 words, and there is no basis for a finding of any argumentative language as written. The Court finds that Plaintiffs fail to meet their burden of showing that the Petition's description of effect does not comply with NRS 295.009.

With their Complaint, Plaintiffs filed numerous declarations regarding the opinions of multiple persons in various fields regarding what Plaintiffs believe may be the eventual effects of the Petition should it one day become law, including what they contend are potential effects on government programs, like Medicaid, that can receive reimbursement funds through subrogation claims upon settlement or damages awards at the conclusion of civil actions. The Court makes no findings regarding the truth or falsity of the claims in Plaintiffs' declarations, but believes these sorts of potential effect to be too speculative and hypothetical to be required to be included in the Petition's description. Most of the speculative effects Plaintiffs identify "do not concern the initiative's primary goal," and instead "involve how the initiative may apply in a variety of hypothetical situations." Nevadans for Reproductive Freedom v. Washington, 140 Nev. Adv. Op. 28, 2024 WL 1688083, at \*5 (Nev. Apr. 18, 2024).

Furthermore, these and any other perceived effects of the Petition upon which Plaintiffs or their declarants opine can be the subject of political speech, lobbying efforts, or campaign materials in opposition to the passage and enactment of the Petition when, and if, it is transmitted to the Nevada Legislature or qualifies for placement on the ballot at a general election ballot. As the Supreme Court has noted, "the description of effect ... does not serve as the full, detailed explanation, including arguments for and against, that voters receive prior to a general election," and "once enough signatures have been gathered to place the initiative on the ballot, the Secretary of State will draft a neutral summary of the initiative, which does not have a word limit, and committees will draft arguments for and against the passage of the initiative, both of which will be

placed on the ballot, instead of the description of effect." *Helton*, 512 P.3d at 317 n.6. (citing *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 39-40).

Additionally, because the description of effect of an initiative petition is, by law, limited in length, it cannot constitutionally be required to delineate every downstream effect that an initiative may have; to conclude otherwise could obstruct, rather than facilitate, the people's right to the initiative process. *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 38. In the words of the Nevada Supreme Court, "an opponent of a ballot initiative [can often] identify some perceived effect of an initiative that is not explained by the description of effect, challenge the initiative in district court, and block the people's right to the initiative process." But the "[s]tatutes enacted to facilitate the initiative process cannot be interpreted so strictly as to halt the process." *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 47.

The Court finds the description of effect of the Petition satisfies Nevada's NRS 295.009 requirements, as the plain language of the description is straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative.

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Nevada's single subject rule.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Article 19, Section 3.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs' challenges to Initiative Petition S-04-2023 are rejected, and Plaintiffs' complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

Dated this 10 day of May, 2024.

JAMES T. RUSSELL

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the First Judicial District 2 Court, and that on May \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2024, I deposited for mailing, postage paid, at Carson City, 3 Nevada, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order addressed as follows: 5 Alex Velto, Esq. Nathan Ring, Esq. 7 Reese Ring Velto PLLC 200 S Virginia Street, Suite 655 8 Reno, NV 89501 alex@rrvlawers.com 9 nathan@rrvlawyers.com 10 Deepak Gupta, Esq. 11 Matthew W.H. Wessler, Esq. Jonathan E. Taylor, Esq. 12 Thomas Scott-Railton, Esq. 13 Jessica Garland, Esq. Gupta Wessler, LLP 14 2001 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 15 deepak@guptawessler.com 16 Bradley S. Schrager, Esq. 17 Daniel Bravo, Esq. 18 Bravo Schrager LLP 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 19 Las Vegas, NV 89113 bradley@bravoschrager.com 20 daniel@bravoschrager.com 21 Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General 22 Laena St-Jules, Senior Deputy Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 23 100 North Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701-4717

Judicial Assistant, Dept. 1

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lstjules a ag.nv.gov

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1 DEEPAK GUPTA\* REC'D & FILED MATTHEW W.H. WESSLER\* 2 2024 JUN -7 PM 4: 22 JONATHAN E. TAYLOR\* THOMAS SCOTT-RAILTON\* 3 WILLIAM SONT HOEN JESSICA GARLAND\* GUPTA WESSLER LLP 4 2001 K Street, NW 5 Washington, DC 20001 (202) 888-1741 6 deepak@guptawessler.com 7 ALEX VELTO (NBN 14961) 8 NATHAN RING (NBN 12078) REESE RING VELTO PLLC 9 200 S. Virginia Street, Suite 655 Reno, NV 89501 10 (775) 446-8096 11 (775) 249-7864 (fax) alex@rrvlawyers.com 12 nathan@rrvlawyers.com 13 Counsel for the Plaintiffs 14 \* admitted pro hac vice 15 IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 16 OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY 17 UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS 18 FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY and Case No. 24-OC-000561B NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION, 19 Plaintiffs, Dept. No. 1 20 21 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware 22 corporation; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN CASE APPEAL STATEMENT GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, and TIA WHITE. 23 individuals; "NEVADANS FOR FAIR 24 RECOVERY," a registered Nevada political action committee; and FRANCISCO 25 AGUILAR, in his official capacity as Nevada Secretary of State, 26 Defendants. 27 28

1	Case Appeal Statement
2	1. Appellants filing this Case Appeal Statement:
3	Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability and Nevada Justice Association
4	2. Judge issuing the decision, judgment, or order appealed from:
5	The Honorable James T. Russell, First Judicial District Court, Dept. I
6	3. Appellants:
7	Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability and Nevada Justice Association.
8	COUNSEL OF RECORD:
9	ALEX VELTO (NBN 14961)
10	NATHAN RING (NBN 12078) REESE RING VELTO, PLLC
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13	<u>alex@rvlawyers.com</u>
14	DEEPAK GUPTA
15	MATTHEW W. H. WESSLER JONATHAN E. TAYLOR
16	THOMAS SCOTT-RAILTON JESSICA GARLAND
17	GUPTA WESSLER LLP
18	2001 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20001
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20	deepak@guptawessler.com
21	STEVEN M. SILVA (NBN 12492) NOSSAMAN LLP
22	621 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500
23	Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 442-8888
24	ssilva@nossaman.com
25	4. Respondents:
26	Respondents Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, Tia White, and
27	Nevadans for Fair Recovery.
28	COUNSEL OF RECORD: BRADLEY S. SCHRAGER (NBN 10217)

2

DANIEL BRAVO (NBN 13078) BRAVO SCHRAGER LLLP 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

Respondent Francisco Aguilar in his official capacity as Nevada Secretary of State:

COUNSEL OF RECORD: LAENA ST-JULES (NBN 15156) ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE 100 N. Carson Street Carson City, Nevada 89701

Counsel for Appellant is informed that Respondent will retain the same counsel for the appellate proceedings.

5. Attorneys not licensed to practice in Nevada whom the district court granted permission under SCR 42:

Out-of-state counsel for the appellants, Deepak Gupta, Matthew W.H. Wessler, Jonathan E. Taylor, Thomas Scott-Railton, and Jessica Garland, have been admitted under SCR 42. The district court's orders granting such permission are attached as Exhibit A.

- 6. Appellant was represented by retained counsel in the district court.
- 7. Appellant is represented by retained counsel on appeal.
- 8. Appellant was not granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.
- 9. The Complaint in this matter was originally filed on April 8, 2024.
- 10. Brief description of the nature of the action and result in the district court, including the type of judgment or order being appealed and the relief granted by the district court:

Plaintiffs Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability and Nevada Justice Association filed a complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief challenging Initiative Petition S-04-2024 on April 8, 2024 against Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery. The parties stipulated to a scheduling order and briefed the issues. After briefing, the district court held a hearing on the challenge on May 6, 2024. The Court issued Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order Denying Plaintiffs' Legal Challenge to Initiative Petition S-04-2024, which was entered on May 10, 2024. The Court corrected its order on May 13, 2024.

- 11. This case has not been subject of an appeal to or original writ proceeding in the Supreme Court.
- 12. This appeal does not involve child custody or visitation.
- 13. This appeal does not involve the possibility of settlement.

#### **Affirmation**

Pursuant to NRS 239B.030(1) and NRS 603A.040, undersigned counsel hereby affirm that the foregoing case appeal statement does not contain the personal information of any person.

Dated this 7th day of June 2024

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\* admitted pro hac vice

 $<sup>^1</sup>$  Admitted in New York; practicing under direct supervision of members of the District of Columbia Bar under Rule 49(c)(8).

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BRADLEY S. SCHRAGER, ESQ. (NBN 10217)

Attorneys for Defendants UBER TECHNOLOGIES,

SCOTT GILLES, TIA WHITE, and NEVADANS

INC.; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN,

DANIEL BRAVO, ESQ. (NBN 13078)

BRAVO SCHRAGER LLLP

Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

FOR FAIR RECOVERY

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the law firm of Reese Ring Velto, PLLC and that on the 7th day of June 2024, I caused service a true and correct copy of the CASE APPEAL STATEMENT by via US Mail addressed to the following:

Laena St-Jules, Esq. (NBN 15156) ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE 100 N. Carson Street Carson City, Nevada 89701

Counsel for Nevada Secretary of State

An employee of Reese Ring Velto, PLL

## **EXHIBIT INDEX**

EXHIBIT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TITLE	NUMBER OF PAGES
A	Orders Admitting to Practice	9

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## **EXHIBIT A**

REC'D & FILED MAY 0 6 2024 1 DEEPAK GUPTA\* Date MATTHEW W.H. WESSLER\*\* 2 WILLIAM SCOTT HOEN JONATHAN E. TAYLOR\* THOMAS SCOTT-RAILTON\* **CLERK** 3 JESSICA GARLAND\* Deputy **GUPTA WESSLER LLP** 4 2001 K Street, NW 5 Washington, DC 20001 (202) 888-1741 6 deepak@guptawessler.com 7 ALEX VELTO (NBN 14961) 8 NATHAN RING (NBN 12078) REESE RING VELTO PLLC 9 200 S. Virginia Street, Suite 655 Reno, NV 89501 10 (775) 446-8096 11 (775) 249-7864 (fax) alex@rrvlawyers.com 12 nathan@rrvlawyers.com 13 Counsel for the Plaintiffs 14 15 IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 16 OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY 17 UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS 18 FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY and Case No. 24-OC-000561B NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION, 19 Plaintiffs, Dept. No. 1 20 VS. 21 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware 22 corporation; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN ORDER ADMITTING TO PRACTICE GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, and TIA WHITE. 23 individuals; "NEVADANS FOR FAIR 24 RECOVERY," a registered Nevada political action committee; and FRANCISCO 25 AGUILAR, in his official capacity as Nevada Secretary of State, 26 Defendants. 27 28

Deepak Gupta, Esq., having filed his Motion to Associate Counsel under Nevada Supreme Court Rule 42, together with a Verified Application for Association of Counsel, a Certificate of Good Standing for the District of Columbia, and the State Bar of Nevada Statement; said application having been noticed, no objections having been made, and the Court being fully apprised in the premises, and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said application is hereby granted, and Deepak Gupta, Esq. is hereby admitted to practice in the above-entitled Court pro hac vice for the purposes of the above-entitled matter only.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 6th day of May 2024.

DISTRICT JUDGE

MAY 0 6 2024 1 DEEPAK GUPTA\* Date MATTHEW W.H. WESSLER\*\* 2 WILLIAM SCOTT HOEN JONATHAN E. TAYLOR\* THOMAS SCOTT-RAILTON\* **CLERK** 3 JESSICA GARLAND\* **GUPTA WESSLER LLP** Deputy 4 2001 K Street, NW 5 Washington, DC 20001 (202) 888-1741 6 deepak@guptawessler.com 7 ALEX VELTO (NBN 14961) 8 NATHAN RING (NBN 12078) REESE RING VELTO PLLC 9 200 S. Virginia Street, Suite 655 Reno, NV 89501 10 (775) 446-8096 11 (775) 249-7864 (fax) alex@rrvlawyers.com 12 nathan@rrvlawyers.com 13 Counsel for the Plaintiffs 14 15 IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY 16 17 UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY and Case No. 24-OC-000561B 18 NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiffs, Dept. No. 1 19 20 VS. 21 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware corporation; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN 22 ORDER ADMITTING TO PRACTICE GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, and TIA WHITE, individuals; "NEVADANS FOR FAIR 23 RECOVERY," a registered Nevada political 24 action committee; and FRANCISCO AGUILAR, in his official capacity as Nevada 25 Secretary of State, Defendants. 26 27 28

REC'D & FILED /

Thomas Scott-Railton, Esq., having filed his Motion to Associate Counsel under Nevada Supreme Court Rule 42, together with a Verified Application for Association of Counsel, a Certificate of Good Standing for the State of New York, and the State Bar of Nevada Statement; said application having been noticed, no objections having been made, and the Court being fully apprised in the premises, and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said application is hereby granted, and Thomas Scott-Railton, Esq. is hereby admitted to practice in the above-entitled Court pro has vice for the purposes of the above entitled matter only.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 64 day of May 2024.

DISTRICT JUDGE FUNDE

MAY 0 6 2024 1 DEEPAK GUPTA\* MATTHEW W.H. WESSLER\*\* WILLIAM SCOTT HOEN 2 IONATHAN E. TAYLOR\* THOMAS SCOTT-RAILTON\* CLERK 3 JESSICA GARLAND\* **GUPTA WESSLER LLP** 4 Deputy 2001 K Street, NW 5 Washington, DC 20001 (202) 888-1741 6 deepak@ouptawessler.com 7 ALEX VELTO (NBN 14961) 8 NATHAN RING (NBN 12078) REESE RING VELTO PLLC 9 200 S. Virginia Street, Suite 655 Reno, NV 89501 10 (775) 446-8096 11 (775) 249-7864 (fax) alex@rrvlawyers.com 12 nathan@rrvlawyers.com 13 Counsel for the Plaintiffs 14 15 IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY 16 17 UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY and Case No. 24-OC-000561B 18 NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiffs. Dept. No. 1 19 20 vs. 21 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware ORDER ADMITTING TO PRACTICE corporation; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN 22 GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, and TIA WHITE, individuals; "NEVADANS FOR FAIR 23 RECOVERY," a registered Nevada political 24 action committee; and FRANCISCO AGUILAR, in his official capacity as Nevada 25 Secretary of State, Defendants. 26 27

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REC'D & FILED

Jonathan Ellis Taylor, Esq., having filed his Motion to Associate Counsel under Nevada Supreme Court Rule 42, together with a Verified Application for Association of Counsel, Certificates of Good Standing for the State of New York and for the District of Columbia, and the State Bar of Nevada Statement; said application having been noticed, no objections having been made, and the Court being fully apprised in the premises, and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said application is hereby granted, and Jonathan Ellis Taylor, Esq. is hereby admitted to practice in the above-entitled Court pro has vice for the purposes of the above-entitled matter only.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 64 day of May 2024.

DISTRICT JUDGE

REC'D & FILED 2024 MAY 10 AM 7: 46

WILLIAM SCOTT HOEN
BY HEALL &

DEEPAK GUPTA\*
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alex@rrvlavyers.com
nathan@rrvlavyers.com

Counsel for the Plaintiffs

\*admitted pro hac vice

\*\*pro hac vice application forthcoming

## IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY and NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiffs,

vs.

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware corporation; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, and TIA WHITE, individuals; "NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY," a registered Nevada political action committee; and FRANCISCO AGUILAR, in his official capacity as Nevada Secretary of State,

Defendants.

Case No. 24-OC-000561B

Dept. No. 1

#### ORDER ADMITTING TO PRACTICE

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Admitted in New York; practicing under direct supervision of members of the District of Columbia Bar under Rule 49(c)(8).

Jessica Garland, Esq., having filed her Motion to Associate Counsel under Nevada Supreme Court Rule 42, together with a Verified Application for Association of Counsel, Certificates of Good Standing for the State of California and for the District of Columbia, and the State Bar of Nevada Statement; said application having been noticed, no objections having been made, and the Court being fully apprised in the premises, and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said application is hereby granted, and Jessica Garland, Esq. is hereby admitted to practice in the above-entitled Court pro hac vice for the purposes of the above entitled matter only.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 10tday of May 2024.

DISTRICT JUDGE

MIJR5925 Judge: RUSSELL, JUDGE JAMES Case No. 24 OC 00056 1B TODD Ticket No. CTN: UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS Ву: FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABI et al -vs-AGUILAR, FRANCISCO DRSPND By: ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE HEROE'S MEMORIAL BLDG. CAPITOL COMPLEX CARSON CITY, NV 89710 Dob: Sex: Lic: Sid: GILLES, SCOTT DRSPND By: SCHRAGER, BRADLEY S 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY 3RD FLOOR SOUTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89169 Dob: Sex: Lic: Sid: GRIFFIN, JOHN DRSPND By: SCHRAGER, BRADLEY S 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY 3RD FLOOR SOUTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89169 Dob: Sex: Lic: Sid: GRIFFIN, MATT DRSPND By: SCHRAGER, BRADLEY S 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY 3RD FLOOR SOUTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89169 Dob: Lic: Sid: NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY DRSPND By: SCHRAGER, BRADLEY S 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY 3RD FLOOR SOUTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89169 Dob: Sex: Lic: Sid: UBER TECHNOLOGIES INC. DRSPND By: SCHRAGER, BRADLEY S 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY 3RD FLOOR SOUTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89169 Dob: Sex: Lic: Sid: WHITE, TIA DRSPND By: SCHRAGER, BRADLEY S 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY 3RD FLOOR SOUTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89169 Dob: Sex: Lic: Sid: Plate#: Make: Year: Accident: Type: Location: Bond ? Set: NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION PLNTPET Posted: Type: UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT PLNTPET SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABI Charges: Offense Dt: Cvr Arrest Dt: Comments: Ct. Offense Dt: Cvr: Arrest Dt: Comments: Ct = Offense Dt: Cvr: Arrest Dt: Comments: Cts Offense Dt: Cvr: Arrest Dt: Comments: Ct. Offense Dt: Cvr: Arrest Dt: Comments:

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Offense Dt: Cvr: Docket Sheet

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J.	P41 1	No. 10 control of the			
10.	Filed	Action	Operator	Fine/Cost	Due
	06/07/24	RECEIPT	1BPETERSON	0.00	0.00
?	06/07/24	APPEAL BOND DEPOSIT Receipt: 85119 Date: 06/07/2024	1BPETERSON	500.00	0.00
	06/07/24	CASE APPEAL STATEMENT	1BPETERSON	0.00	0.00
	06/07/24	NOTICE OF APPEAL FILED Receipt: 85120 Date: 06/07/2024	1BPETERSON	24.00	0.00
,	05/15/24	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER	1BDORTIZ	0.00	0.00
i	05/13/24	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER	1BDORTIZ	0.00	0.00
	05/13/24	CORRECTED FINDINGS OF FACT CONLUCSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0 - 00
ı	05/10/24	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
ı	05/10/24	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
.0	05/10/24	FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
1	05/10/24	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
2	05/10/24	ORDER ADMITTING TO PRACTICE	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
3	05/08/24	MOTION TO ASSOCIATE COUNSEL JESSICA GARLAND	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
4	05/06/24	ORDER ADMITTING TO PRACTICE (3)	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
15	05/06/24	HEARING HELD: The following event: PETITION HEARING scheduled for 05/06/2024 at 1:30 pm has been resulted as follows:	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
		Result: HEARING HELD Judge: RUSSELL, JUDGE JAMES TODD Location: DEPT I			
6	05/03/24	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION MOTION TO ASSOCIATE COUNSEL JONATHAN ELLIS TAYLOR AND [PROPOSED] ORDER	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
.7	05/03/24	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION MOTION TO ASSOCIATE COUNSEL DEEPAK GUPTA AND [PROPOSED]	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
. 8	05/03/24	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION MOTION TO ASSOCIATE COUNSEL THOMAS SCOTT-RAILTON AND [PROPOSED] ORDER	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
. 9	05/03/24	MOTION TO ASSOCIATE COUNSEL JONATHAN ELLIS TAYLOR AND [PROPOSED] ORDER; HEARING NOT REQESTED	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
20	05/03/24	MOTION TO ASSOCIATE COUNSEL DEEPAK GUPTA AND [PROPOSED]; ORDER HEARING NOT REQESTED	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
1	05/03/24	MOTION TO ASSOCIATE COUNSEL THOMAS SCOTT-RAILTON AND [PROPOSED] ORDER; HEARING NOT REQUESTED	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
2	04/28/24	AMENDED REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION	1BPETERSON	0.00	0.00
3	04/25/24	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION	1BPETERSON	0.00	0.00
4	04/25/24	REPLY MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CHALLENGING INITATIVE PETITION S-04-2024	1BPETERSON	0.00	0.00

No.	Filed	Action	Operator	Fine/Cost	Due
25	04/23/24	DEFENDANTS MEMORANDUM IN RESPONSE TO CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
26	04/23/24	INITIAL APPEARANCE FEE DISCLOSURE	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
27	04/23/24	ADDITIONAL DEFENDANT (MATT GRIFFIN) Receipt: 84522 Date: 04/23/2024	1BCCOOPER	30.00	0.00
28	04/23/24	ADDITIONAL DEFENDANT (NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY) Receipt: 84522 Date: 04/23/2024	1BCCOOPER	30.00	0.00
29	04/23/24	ADDITIONAL DEFENDANT (TIA WHITE) Receipt: 84522 Date: 04/23/2024	1BCCOOPER	30.00	0.00
30	04/23/24	ADDITIONAL DEFENDANT (SCOTT GILLES) Receipt: 84522 Date: 04/23/2024	1BCCOOPER	30.00	0.00
31	04/23/24	ADDITIONAL DEFENDANT (JOHN GRIFFIN) Receipt: 84522 Date: 04/23/2024	1BCCOOPER	30.00	0.00
32	04/23/24	DEFENDANTS UBER TECHNOLOGIES INC. MATT GRIFFIN JOHN GRIFFIN SCOTT GILLES TIA WHITE AND NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY ANSWER TO COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CHALLENGING INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024 Receipt: 84522 Date: 04/23/2024	1BCCOOPER	218.00	0.00
33	04/18/24	SECRETARY OF STATES LIMITED RESPONSE TO MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CHALLENGING INITIATIVE PETTION S-04-2024	1BDORTIZ	0.00	0.00
34	04/18/24	SECRETARY OF STATE'S ANSWER TO COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CHALLENGING INITATIVE PETITON S-04-2024	1BDORTIZ	0.00	0.00
35	04/17/24	ERRATA TO STIPULATION AND SCHEDULING ORDER OF THE COURT	1BPETERSON	0.00	0.00
36	04/16/24	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BDORTIZ	0.00	0.00
37	04/16/24	STIPULATION AND SCHEDULING ORDER OF THE COURT	1BDORTIZ	0.00	0.00
38	04/16/24	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF THE STIPULATION AND (PROPOSED) SCHEDULING ORDER OF THE COURT	1BDORTIZ	0.00	0.00
39	04/16/24	ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE (2)	1BDORTIZ	0.00	0.00
40	04/12/24	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CHALLENGING INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024	1BPETERSON	0.00	0.00
41	04/08/24	APPENDIX TO COMPLAINT VOLUME 3 OF 3	1BPETERSON	0.00	0.00
42	04/08/24	APPENDIX TO COMPLAINT VOLUME 2 OF 3	lbpeterson	0.00	0.00
43	04/08/24	APPENDIX TO COMPLAINT VOLUME 1 OF 3	1BPETERSON	0.00	0.00
4 4	04/08/24	ADDITIONAL PLAINTIFF Receipt: 84317 Date: 04/08/2024	1BPETERSON	30.00	0.00
45	04/08/24	ISSUING SUMMONS AND 6 ADDITIONAL SUMMONS	1BPETERSON	0.00	0.00
16	04/08/24	COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CHALLENGING INITATIVE PETITION S-04-2024 Receipt: 84317 Date: 04/08/2024	1BPETERSON	265.00	0.00
			Total:	1,187.00	0.00
	Totals By: COST HOLDING INFORMATION				0.00 0.00 0.00

REC'D & FILED 2024 MAY 10 AM 8: 24 WILLIAM SCOTT HOEN

## IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., A

AND TIA WHITE, INDIVIDUALS;

DELAWARE CORPORATION; MATT

VS.

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Case No.: 24 OC 00056 1B

Dept No. 1

GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY, A

REGISTERED NEVADA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE; AND FRANCISCO AGUILAR, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE,

Defendant

#### FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024

This matter came before this Court following a complaint filed by Plaintiffs Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability and Nevada Justice Association (collectively) "Plaintiffs") challenging the legal sufficiency of Initiative Petition S-04-2024 (the "Petition").

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS

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295.061. After briefing according to a schedule to which the parties stipulated, the Court held a hearing on May 6, 2024, regarding Plaintiffs' legal challenge to the Petition.

As indicated by this Court in all initiative hearings, this Court takes no position as to the merit of the initiative but seeks to determine if the requirements of NRS 295.009, et al and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

Initially, the Court would note that Plaintiffs have made strong argument's as to the initiative having the effect of precluding access to legal counsel, reducing the reimbursement to the State Medicaid fund, and changing the calculation of contingent fees by removal of medical expenses from the calculations thereof. All of these arguments against the initiative may or may not have merit, but are not dermane to whether the requirements of NRS 295.009 and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

The Court, having reviewed the papers and pleadings on file, considered the matter, being fully advised, and good cause appearing, finds, concludes, and orders as follows:

### FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW1

#### A. FINDINGS OF FACT

#### 1. Initiative Petition S-04-2024

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. The Petition seeks to amend Title 1, Chapter 7 of the Nevada Revised Statutes by adding a new section thereto that seeks to limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

Any findings of fact which are more appropriately considered conclusions of law shall be treated as such, and any conclusions of law which are more appropriately considered findings of fact shall be treated as such.

The Petition includes a description of effect as required by NRS 295.009(1)(b), which reads, in full:

If enacted, this initiative will limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive as a contingency fee in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

In Nevada currently, most civil cases do not limit an attorney's contingent fee percentages, except that such fees must be reasonable. Current law does, however, limit attorney fees in medical malpractice cases to 35% of any recovery, and caps contingency fees for a private attorney contracted to represent the State of Nevada to 25% of the total amount recovered.

### 2. Procedural History

On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS 295.061, challenging the legal sufficiency of the Petition. On April 12, Plaintiffs filed a memorandum in support of their complaint.

On April 16, the parties stipulated to, and the Court ordered, a briefing schedule for this matter. On April 19, Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery (collectively, "Defendants") filed a response memorandum. After briefing, this Court held a hearing on the matter on May 6.

As an initial matter, it is important to state that at hearing both parties agreed that in a preelection challenge to an initiative petition, the only issues for the Court concern whether the Petition complies with the requirements of NRS 295.009 and any pertinent procedural provisions of Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution. The Court does not inquire into, and does not consider, either the substantive validity of the proposal or the positive or negative qualities, as policy, of its provisions.

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#### B. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

### 1. The Petition Does Not Violate Nevada's Single Subject Rule

NRS 295.009(1) provides that "[e]ach petition for initiative or referendum must ... [e]mbrace but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto." Subsection 2 of that statute explains that an initiative "embraces but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto, if the parts of the proposed initiative ... are functionally related and germane to each other in a way that provides sufficient notice of the general subject of, and of the interests likely to be affected by, the proposed initiative." NRS 295.009(2).

The single-subject requirement "facilitates the initiative process by preventing petition drafters from circulating confusing petitions that address multiple subjects." *Nevadans for the Proceof Prop. Rights, Inc. v. Heller*, 122 Nev. 894, 902, 141 P.3d 1235, 1240 (2006). Thus, "the single-subject requirement helps both in promoting informed decisions and in preventing the enactment of unpopular provisions by attaching them to more attractive proposals or concealing them in lengthy, complex initiatives (i.e., logrolling)." *Las Vegas Taxpayer Accountability Comte. v. City Council of City of Las Vegas*, 125 Nev. 165, 176-77, 208 P.3d 429, 436-37 (2009).

In considering single-subject challenges, courts must first determine the initiative's purpose or subject. "To determine the initiative's purpose or subject, this court looks to its textual language and the proponents' arguments." *Las Vegas Taxpayer*, 125 Nev. at 180, 208 P.3d at 439. Courts also will look at whether the description of effect articulates an overarching purpose and explains how provisions relate to a single subject. *Id*.

Furthermore, and most recently, in *Helton v. Nevada Voters First PAC*, 138 Nev. Adv. Op. 45, 512 P.3d 309 (2022), the Nevada Supreme Court stated that "even if an initiative petition proposes more than one change, each of which could be brought in separate initiative petitions, the proper consideration is whether the changes are functionally related and germane to each other and the petition's subject." *Id.*, 512 P.3d at 314. The Court found that "(b)oth categories of changes proposed in the ... initiative concern the election process in Nevada and more specifically how

candidates for the specifically defined partisan offices are presented to voters and elected." *Id.* 512 P.3d at 314-15.

In this case, the Court finds that the primary purpose of the Petition, clear from both its text and the description of effect, is *the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases*. Further, the Court finds that the Petition's text, its description of effect, and the arguments of the Defendants in briefing and at hearing confirm the Petition's primary purpose. And unlike the petition at issue in *Helton*, for example, the Petition does not appear to present multiple changes that could be considered to be unrelated in any event. Section 1 sets out the substantive purpose of the proposal; Section 2 describes the scope of Section 1's proposal; and Section 3 provides a definition of "recovered," for purposes of the proposed new statute. All three sections of the Petition, therefore, are functionally related and germane both to the primary purpose of the Petition and to one another.

The Court is unconvinced by Plaintiffs' arguments because Plaintiffs have not identified multiple "subjects" under any reading of Nevada statutory or case law authority.<sup>2</sup> For example, the fact that the term "civil cases" covers more than one type of civil action does not constitute a single-subject violation, because the primary purpose of the Petition is the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases generally. *See, e.g.*, Nev. R. Civ. Proc., 1, 2, and 3.

The Court finds the Petition does not violate NRS 295.009(1)(a)'s single-subject requirement.

## 2. The Petition Does Not Violate Article 19, Section 3's "Full-Text" Requirement

Under Article 19, Section 3 of the Nevada Constitution, proponents must "include the full text of the measure proposed" with a filed initiative petition. Nev. Const. art. 19, § 3. Plaintiffs contend that some other statutory text beyond that which proponents have proposed should be included with the Petition, because they speculate that the Petition, should it become law, may

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Helton, 512 P.3d at 315 n.5: "A subject is the overall thing being discussed, whereas a change is the alteration or modification of existing law. See 'Subject,' Black's Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019) (defining "subject" as "[t]he matter of concern over which something is created")."

have some future effect on those other provisions of law. The Court disagrees that this is what Article 19, Section 3 requires, and finds that every provision that is proposed to be circulated for signatures and to be considered by the electorate is included with the filed Petition, and that therefore there is no violation of the full-text requirement. To rule otherwise would not only be speculative, but would interfere unnecessarily with the people's right to the initiative power, if each proposed petition had also to contain the text of any and all other laws that might possibly be affected by the petition's enactment.

## 3. The Petition's Description Of Effect Is Legally Adequate

Under NRS 295.009(1)(b), every initiative must "[s]et forth, in not more than 200 words, a description of the effect of the initiative or referendum if the initiative or referendum is approved by the voters." The purpose of the description is to "prevent voter confusion and promote informed decisions." *Nevadans for Nev. v. Beers*, 122 Nev. 930, 939, 142 P.3d 339, 345 (2006). Thus, "[t]he importance of the description of effect cannot be minimized, as it is what the voters see when deciding whether to even sign a petition." *Coal. For Nev.'s Future v. RIP Com. Tax, Inc.*, No. 69501, 2016 WL 2842925 at \*2 (2016) (unpublished disposition) (citing *Educ. Initiative PAC v. Comm. To Protect Nev. Jobs*, 129 Nev. 35, 37, 293 P.3d 874, 876 (2013)). "[T]he description of effect may hold even more impact with respect to a referendum, since merely gathering sufficient signatures to place a referendum on the ballot guarantees a change to the law regardless of the election's outcome." *Id.* (citing Nev. Const. art. 19, § 1(3) (providing that, if the voters approve the referendum, the statute "shall stand as the law of the state and shall not be amended, annulled, repealed, set aside, suspended or in any way made inoperative except by the direct vote of the people," and if the voters disapprove the statute or resolution, it is rendered void)).

The Nevada Supreme Court has repeatedly held that "a description of effect must be straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative, and it must not be deceptive or misleading." *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 42, 293 P.3d at 879 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). It must also "explain the[] ramifications of the proposed amendment" in order to allow

voters to make an informed decision. Nev. Judges Ass'n v. Lau, 112 Nev. 51, 59, 910 P.2d 898, 903 (1996).

This Court finds that the Petition's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law. The description of effect is straightforward, succinct, under 200 words, and there is no basis for a finding of any argumentative language as written. The Court finds that Plaintiffs fail to meet their burden of showing that the Petition's description of effect does not comply with NRS 295.009.

With their Complaint, Plaintiffs filed numerous declarations regarding the opinions of multiple persons in various fields regarding what Plaintiffs believe may be the eventual effects of the Petition should it one day become law, including what they contend are potential effects on government programs, like Medicaid, that can receive reimbursement funds through subrogation claims upon settlement or damages awards at the conclusion of civil actions. The Court makes no findings regarding the truth or falsity of the claims in Plaintiffs' declarations, but believes these sorts of potential effect to be too speculative and hypothetical to be required to be included in the Petition's description. Most of the speculative effects Plaintiffs identify "do not concern the initiative's primary goal," and instead "involve how the initiative may apply in a variety of hypothetical situations." Nevadans for Reproductive Freedom v. Washington, 140 Nev. Adv. Op. 28, 2024 WL 1688083, at \*5 (Nev. Apr. 18, 2024).

Furthermore, these and any other perceived effects of the Petition upon which Plaintiffs or their declarants opine can be the subject of political speech, lobbying efforts, or campaign materials in opposition to the passage and enactment of the Petition when, and if, it is transmitted to the Nevada Legislature or qualifies for placement on the ballot at a general election ballot. As the Supreme Court has noted, "the description of effect ... does not serve as the full, detailed explanation, including arguments for and against, that voters receive prior to a general election," and "once enough signatures have been gathered to place the initiative on the ballot, the Secretary of State will draft a neutral summary of the initiative, which does not have a word limit, and committees will draft arguments for and against the passage of the initiative, both of which will be

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placed on the ballot, instead of the description of effect." *Helton*, 512 P.3d at 317 n.6. (citing *Educ*, *Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 39–40).

Additionally, because the description of effect of an initiative petition is, by law, limited in length, it cannot constitutionally be required to delineate every downstream effect that an initiative may have; to conclude otherwise could obstruct, rather than facilitate, the people's right to the initiative process. *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 38. In the words of the Nevada Supreme Court, "an opponent of a ballot initiative [can often] identify some perceived effect of an initiative that is not explained by the description of effect, challenge the initiative in district court, and block the people's right to the initiative process." But the "[s]tatutes enacted to facilitate the initiative process cannot be interpreted so strictly as to halt the process." *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 47.

The Court finds the description of effect of the Petition satisfies Nevada's NRS 295.009 requirements, as the plain language of the description is straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative.

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Nevada's single subject rule.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Article 19, Section 3.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs' challenges to Initiative Petition S-04-2023 are rejected, and Plaintiffs' complaint is dismissed with prejudice. Dated this 10th day of May, 2024.

JAMES T. RUSSELL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

1 Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the First Judicial District 2 Court, and that on May 10th, 2024, I deposited for mailing, postage paid, at Carson City, 3 Nevada, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order addressed as follows: 4 5 Alex Velto, Esq. 6 Nathan Ring, Esq. 7 Reese Ring Velto PLLC 200 S Virginia Street, Suite 655 8 Reno, NV 89501 alex@rrvlawers.com 9 nathan@rrvlawyers.com 10 Deepak Gupta, Esq. 11 Matthew W.H. Wessler, Esq. Jonathan E. Taylor, Esq. 12 Thomas Scott-Railton, Esq. 13 Jessica Garland, Esq. Gupta Wessler, LLP 14 2001 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 15 deepak@guptawessler.com 16 Bradley S. Schrager, Esq. 17 Daniel Bravo, Esq. Bravo Schrager LLP 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 19 Las Vegas, NV 89113 bradley@bravoschrager.com 20 daniel@bravoschrager.com 21 Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General 22 Laena St-Jules, Senior Deputy Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 23 100 North Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701-4717 24 lstjules@ag.nv.gov

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Judicial Assistant, Dept. 1

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2024 MAY 13 AM 6: 33

WILLIAM SCOTT HOEN

DEPUTY

VS.

# IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., A
DELAWARE CORPORATION; MATT
GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES,
AND TIA WHITE, INDIVIDUALS;
NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY, A
REGISTERED NEVADA POLITICAL
ACTION COMMITTEE; AND FRANCISCO
AGUILAR, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY
AS NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE,

Defendant

Case No.: 24 OC 00056 1B

Dept No. 1

## CORRECTED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024

This matter came before this Court following a complaint filed by Plaintiffs Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability and Nevada Justice Association (collectively, "Plaintiffs") challenging the legal sufficiency of Initiative Petition S-04-2024 (the "Petition").

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS

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295.061. After briefing according to a schedule to which the parties stipulated, the Court held a hearing on May 6, 2024, regarding Plaintiffs' legal challenge to the Petition.

As indicated by this Court in all initiative hearings, this Court takes no position as to the merit of the initiative but seeks to determine if the requirements of NRS 295.009, et al and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

Initially, the Court would note that Plaintiffs have made strong argument's as to the initiative having the effect of precluding access to legal counsel, reducing the reimbursement to the State Medicaid fund, and changing the calculation of contingent fees by removal of medical expenses from the calculations thereof. All of these arguments against the initiative may or may not have merit, but are not germane to whether the requirements of NRS 295.009 and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

The Court, having reviewed the papers and pleadings on file, considered the matter, being fully advised, and good cause appearing, finds, concludes, and orders as follows:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW1

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

#### 1. Initiative Petition S-04-2024

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. The Petition seeks to amend Title 1, Chapter 7 of the Nevada Revised Statutes by adding a new section thereto that seeks to limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

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Any findings of fact which are more appropriately considered conclusions of law shall be treated as such, and any conclusions of law which are more appropriately considered findings of fact shall be treated as such.

The Petition includes a description of effect as required by NRS 295.009(1)(b), which reads, in full:

If enacted, this initiative will limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive as a contingency fee in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

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#### 2. Procedural History

On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS 295.061, challenging the legal sufficiency of the Petition. On April 12, Plaintiffs filed a memorandum in support of their complaint.

On April 16, the parties stipulated to, and the Court ordered, a briefing schedule for this matter. On April 19, Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles. Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery (collectively, "Defendants") filed a response memorandum. After briefing, this Court held a hearing on the matter on May 6.

As an initial matter, it is important to state that at hearing both parties agreed that in a preelection challenge to an initiative petition, the only issues for the Court concern whether the Petition complies with the requirements of NRS 295.009 and any pertinent procedural provisions of Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution. The Court does not inquire into, and does not consider, either the substantive validity of the proposal or the positive or negative qualities, as policy, of its provisions.

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#### B. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

#### 1. The Petition Does Not Violate Nevada's Single Subject Rule

NRS 295.009(1) provides that "[e]ach petition for initiative or referendum must ... [e]mbrace but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto." Subsection 2 of that statute explains that an initiative "embraces but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto, if the parts of the proposed initiative ... are functionally related and germane to each other in a way that provides sufficient notice of the general subject of, and of the interests likely to be affected by, the proposed initiative." NRS 295.009(2).

The single-subject requirement "facilitates the initiative process by preventing petition drafters from circulating confusing petitions that address multiple subjects." *Nevadans for the Proceof Prop. Rights, Inc. v. Heller*, 122 Nev. 894, 902, 141 P.3d 1235, 1240 (2006). Thus, "the single-subject requirement helps both in promoting informed decisions and in preventing the enactment of unpopular provisions by attaching them to more attractive proposals or concealing them in lengthy, complex initiatives (i.e., logrolling)." *Las Vegas Taxpayer Accountability Comte. v. City Council of City of Las Vegas*, 125 Nev. 165, 176-77, 208 P.3d 429, 436-37 (2009).

In considering single-subject challenges, courts must first determine the initiative's purpose or subject. "To determine the initiative's purpose or subject, this court looks to its textual language and the proponents' arguments." *Las Vegas Taxpayer*, 125 Nev. at 180, 208 P.3d at 439. Courts also will look at whether the description of effect articulates an overarching purpose and explains how provisions relate to a single subject. *Id*.

Furthermore, and most recently, in *Helton v. Nevada Voters First PAC*, 138 Nev. Adv. Op. 45, 512 P.3d 309 (2022), the Nevada Supreme Court stated that "even if an initiative petition proposes more than one change, each of which could be brought in separate initiative petitions, the proper consideration is whether the changes are functionally related and germane to each other and the petition's subject." *Id.*, 512 P.3d at 314. The Court found that "(b)oth categories of changes proposed in the ... initiative concern the election process in Nevada and more specifically how

candidates for the specifically defined partisan offices are presented to voters and elected." *Id.*, 512 P.3d at 314-15.

In this case, the Court finds that the primary purpose of the Petition, clear from both its text and the description of effect, is *the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases*. Further, the Court finds that the Petition's text, its description of effect, and the arguments of the Defendants in briefing and at hearing confirm the Petition's primary purpose. And unlike the petition at issue in *Helton*, for example, the Petition does not appear to present multiple changes that could be considered to be unrelated in any event. Section 1 sets out the substantive purpose of the proposal; Section 2 describes the scope of Section 1's proposal; and Section 3 provides a definition of "recovered," for purposes of the proposed new statute. All three sections of the Petition, therefore, are functionally related and germane both to the primary purpose of the Petition and to one another.

The Court is unconvinced by Plaintiffs' arguments because Plaintiffs have not identified multiple "subjects" under any reading of Nevada statutory or case law authority. For example, the fact that the term "civil cases" covers more than one type of civil action does not constitute a single-subject violation, because the primary purpose of the Petition is the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases generally. See, e.g., Nev. R. Civ. Proc., 1, 2, and 3.

The Court finds the Petition does not violate NRS 295.009(1)(a)'s single-subject requirement.

## 2. The Petition Does Not Violate Article 19, Section 3's "Full-Text" Requirement

Under Article 19, Section 3 of the Nevada Constitution, proponents must "include the full text of the measure proposed" with a filed initiative petition. Nev. Const. art. 19, § 3. Plaintiffs contend that some other statutory text beyond that which proponents have proposed should be included with the Petition, because they speculate that the Petition, should it become law, may

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Helton, 512 P.3d at 315 n.5: "A subject is the overall thing being discussed, whereas a change is the alteration or modification of existing law. See 'Subject,' Black's Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019) (defining "subject" as "[t]he matter of concern over which something is created")."

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have some future effect on those other provisions of law. The Court disagrees that this is what Article 19, Section 3 requires, and finds that every provision that is proposed to be circulated for signatures and to be considered by the electorate is included with the filed Petition, and that therefore there is no violation of the full-text requirement. To rule otherwise would not only be speculative, but would interfere unnecessarily with the people's right to the initiative power, if each proposed petition had also to contain the text of any and all other laws that might possibly be affected by the petition's enactment.

### 3. The Petition's Description Of Effect Is Legally Adequate

Under NRS 295.009(1)(b), every initiative must "[s]et forth, in not more than 200 words, a description of the effect of the initiative or referendum if the initiative or referendum is approved by the voters." The purpose of the description is to "prevent voter confusion and promote informed decisions." Nevadans for Nev. v. Beers, 122 Nev. 930, 939, 142 P.3d 339, 345 (2006). Thus, "[t]he importance of the description of effect cannot be minimized, as it is what the voters see when deciding whether to even sign a petition." Coal. For Nev. 's Future v. RIP Com. Tax, Inc., No. 69501, 2016 WL 2842925 at \*2 (2016) (unpublished disposition) (citing Educ. Initiative PAC v. Comm. To Protect Nev. Jobs, 129 Nev. 35, 37, 293 P.3d 874, 876 (2013)). "[T]he description of effect may hold even more impact with respect to a referendum, since merely gathering sufficient signatures to place a referendum on the ballot guarantees a change to the law regardless of the election's outcome." Id. (citing Nev. Const. art. 19, § 1(3) (providing that, if the voters approve the referendum, the statute "shall stand as the law of the state and shall not be amended, annulled, repealed, set aside, suspended or in any way made inoperative except by the direct vote of the people," and if the voters disapprove the statute or resolution, it is rendered void)).

The Nevada Supreme Court has repeatedly held that "a description of effect must be straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative, and it must not be deceptive or misleading." *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 42, 293 P.3d at 879 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). It must also "explain the[] ramifications of the proposed amendment" in order to allow

voters to make an informed decision. Nev. Judges Ass'n v. Lau, 112 Nev. 51, 59, 910 P.2d 898, 903 (1996).

This Court finds that the Petition's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law. The description of effect is straightforward, succinct, under 200 words, and there is no basis for a finding of any argumentative language as written. The Court finds that Plaintiffs fail to meet their burden of showing that the Petition's description of effect does not comply with NRS 295.009.

With their Complaint, Plaintiffs filed numerous declarations regarding the opinions of multiple persons in various fields regarding what Plaintiffs believe may be the eventual effects of the Petition should it one day become law, including what they contend are potential effects on government programs, like Medicaid, that can receive reimbursement funds through subrogation claims upon settlement or damages awards at the conclusion of civil actions. The Court makes no findings regarding the truth or falsity of the claims in Plaintiffs' declarations, but believes these sorts of potential effect to be too speculative and hypothetical to be required to be included in the Petition's description. Most of the speculative effects Plaintiffs identify "do not concern the initiative's primary goal," and instead "involve how the initiative may apply in a variety of hypothetical situations." *Nevadans for Reproductive Freedom v. Washington*, 140 Nev. Adv. Op. 28, 2024 WL 1688083, at \*5 (Nev. Apr. 18, 2024).

Furthermore, these and any other perceived effects of the Petition upon which Plaintiffs or their declarants opine can be the subject of political speech, lobbying efforts, or campaign materials in opposition to the passage and enactment of the Petition when, and if, it is transmitted to the Nevada Legislature or qualifies for placement on the ballot at a general election ballot. As the Supreme Court has noted, "the description of effect ... does not serve as the full, detailed explanation, including arguments for and against, that voters receive prior to a general election," and "once enough signatures have been gathered to place the initiative on the ballot, the Secretary of State will draft a neutral summary of the initiative, which does not have a word limit, and committees will draft arguments for and against the passage of the initiative, both of which will be

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placed on the ballot, instead of the description of effect." *Helton*, 512 P.3d at 317 n.6. (citing *Educ*. *Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 39–40).

Additionally, because the description of effect of an initiative petition is, by law, limited in length, it cannot constitutionally be required to delineate every downstream effect that an initiative may have; to conclude otherwise could obstruct, rather than facilitate, the people's right to the initiative process. *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 38. In the words of the Nevada Supreme Court, "an opponent of a ballot initiative [can often] identify some perceived effect of an initiative that is not explained by the description of effect, challenge the initiative in district court, and block the people's right to the initiative process." But the "[s]tatutes enacted to facilitate the initiative process cannot be interpreted so strictly as to halt the process." *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 47.

The Court finds the description of effect of the Petition satisfies Nevada's NRS 295.009 requirements, as the plain language of the description is straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative.

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Nevada's single subject rule.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Article 19, Section 3.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs' challenges to Initiative Petition S-04-2023 are rejected, and Plaintiffs' complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

Dated this \_\_/3 day of May, 2024.

JAMÉS T. RUSSELL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the First Judicial District 2 Court, and that on May 15, 2024, I deposited for mailing, postage paid, at Carson City, 3 Nevada, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order addressed as follows: 4 5 Alex Velto, Esq. 6 Nathan Ring, Esq. 7 Reese Ring Velto PLLC 200 S Virginia Street, Suite 655 8 Reno, NV 89501 alex@rrvlawers.com 9 nathan@rrvlawvers.com 10 Deepak Gupta, Esq. 11 Matthew W.H. Wessler, Esq. Jonathan E. Taylor, Esq. 12 Thomas Scott-Railton, Esq. 13 Jessica Garland, Esq. Gupta Wessler, LLP 14 2001 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 15 deepak@guptawessler.com 16 Bradley S. Schrager, Esq. 17 Daniel Bravo, Esq. Bravo Schrager LLP 18 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 19 Las Vegas, NV 89113 bradley@bravoschrager.com 20 daniel@bravoschrager.com 21 Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General 22 Laena St-Jules, Senior Deputy Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 23 100 North Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701-4717 24 lstjules@ag.nv.gov 25

Julie Harkleroad

Judicial Assistant, Dept. 1

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BRADLEY S. SCHRAGER, ESQ. (SBN 10217) DANIEL BRAVO, ESQ. (SBN 13078) BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Tele.: (702) 996-1724 Email: bradley@bravoschrager.com Email: daniel@bravoschrager.com 5 Attorneys for Defendants Uber Technologies, 6 Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery



### IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY and NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION.

Plaintiffs,

vs.

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware corporation; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, and TIA WHITE, individuals; "NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY," a registered Nevada political action committee; and FRANCISCO AGUILAR, in his official capacity as Nevada Secretary of State.

Defendants.

Case No.: 24 OC 00056 1B

Dept. No.: I

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

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### **NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024 was entered in the above-captioned matter on the 10th day of May, 2024. A true and correct copy of the Order is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

### **AFFIRMATION**

The undersigned hereby affirm that the foregoing document does not contain the social security number of any person.

DATED this 10th day of May, 2024.

### BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP

By: ///

BRADLEY S. SCHRAGER, ESQ. (SBN 10217)

DANIEL BRAVO, ESQ. (SBN 13078) 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Tele.: (702) 996-1724

Email: bradley@bravoschrager.com Email: daniel@bravoschrager.com

Attorneys for Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 10th day of May, 2024, I served the foregoing **NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER** by depositing a true copy of the same via electronic mail, per the April 16, 2024, Stipulation, as follows:

Deepak Gupta, Esq.
Matthew W.H. Wessler, Esq.
Jonathan E. Taylor, Esq.
Thomas Scott-Railton, Esq.
Jessica Garland, Esq.
GUPTA WESSLER LLP
2001 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
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Laena St Jules, Esq.
Office of the Attorney General
100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
LStJules@ag.nv.gov

Attorneys for Defendant, Francisco V. Aguilar

Alex Velto, Esq. Nathan Ring, Esq. RESE RING VELTO PLLC 200 S. Virginia Street, Suite 655 Reno, Nevada 89501 alex@rrvlawyers.com Julie Harkleroad Judicial Assistant to Hon. James T. Russel First Judicial District Court, Dept. I jharkleroad@carson.org

Steven M. Silva, Esq. NOSSAMAN LLP 621 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500 Sacramento, CA 95814 ssilva@nossaman.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

By: Dannielle Fresquez, an Employee of BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP

### INDEX OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.	Document Title	No. of Pages
A	Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order Denying Plaintiffs' Legal Challenge to Initiative Petition S-04-2024	10

# **EXHIBIT A**

REC'D & FILEL

2024 MAY 10 AM 8: 24

WILLIAM SCOTT HOEN

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

**UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS** FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff.

VS.

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UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., A DELAWARE CORPORATION; MATT GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, AND TIA WHITE, INDIVIDUALS: NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY, A REGISTERED NEVADA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE; AND FRANCISCO AGUILAR, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE,

Case No.: 24 OC 00056 1B

Dept No. 1

Defendant

### FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024

This matter came before this Court following a complaint filed by Plaintiffs Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability and Nevada Justice Association (collectively) "Plaintiffs") challenging the legal sufficiency of Initiative Petition S-04-2024 (the "Petition").

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS

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295.061. After briefing according to a schedule to which the parties stipulated, the Court held a hearing on May 6, 2024, regarding Plaintiffs' legal challenge to the Petition.

As indicated by this Court in all initiative hearings, this Court takes no position as to the merit of the initiative but seeks to determine if the requirements of NRS 295.009, et al and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

Initially, the Court would note that Plaintiffs have made strong argument's as to the initiative having the effect of precluding access to legal counsel, reducing the reimbursement to the State Medicaid fund, and changing the calculation of contingent fees by removal of medical expenses from the calculations thereof. All of these arguments against the initiative may or may not have merit, but are not dermane to whether the requirements of NRS 295.009 and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

The Court, having reviewed the papers and pleadings on file, considered the matter, being fully advised, and good cause appearing, finds, concludes, and orders as follows:

### FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW<sup>1</sup>

### FINDINGS OF FACT

### 1. Initiative Petition S-04-2024

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. The Petition seeks to amend Title 1, Chapter 7 of the Nevada Revised Statutes by adding a new section thereto that seeks to limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

Any findings of fact which are more appropriately considered conclusions of law shall be treated as such, and any conclusions of law which are more appropriately considered findings of fact shall be treated as such.

 The Petition includes a description of effect as required by NRS 295.009(1)(b), which reads,

If enacted, this initiative will limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive as a contingency fee in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

In Nevada currently, most civil cases do not limit an attorney's contingent fee percentages, except that such fees must be reasonable. Current law does, however, limit attorney fees in medical malpractice cases to 35% of any recovery, and caps contingency fees for a private attorney contracted to represent the State of Nevada to 25% of the total amount recovered.

### 2. Procedural History

On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS 295.061, challenging the legal sufficiency of the Petition. On April 12, Plaintiffs filed a memorandum in support of their complaint.

On April 16, the parties stipulated to, and the Court ordered, a briefing schedule for this matter. On April 19, Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles. Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery (collectively, "Defendants") filed a response memorandum. After briefing, this Court held a hearing on the matter on May 6.

As an initial matter, it is important to state that at hearing both parties agreed that in a preelection challenge to an initiative petition, the only issues for the Court concern whether the Petition complies with the requirements of NRS 295.009 and any pertinent procedural provisions of Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution. The Court does not inquire into, and does not consider, either the substantive validity of the proposal or the positive or negative qualities, as policy, of its provisions.

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### B. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

### 1. The Petition Does Not Violate Nevada's Single Subject Rule

NRS 295.009(1) provides that "[e]ach petition for initiative or referendum must ... [e]mbrace but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto." Subsection 2 of that statute explains that an initiative "embraces but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto, if the parts of the proposed initiative ... are functionally related and germane to each other in a way that provides sufficient notice of the general subject of, and of the interests likely to be affected by, the proposed initiative." NRS 295.009(2).

The single-subject requirement "facilitates the initiative process by preventing petition drafters from circulating confusing petitions that address multiple subjects." Nevadans for the Prote of Prop. Rights, Inc. v. Heller, 122 Nev. 894, 902, 141 P.3d 1235, 1240 (2006). Thus, "the single-subject requirement helps both in promoting informed decisions and in preventing the enactment of unpopular provisions by attaching them to more attractive proposals or concealing them in lengthy, complex initiatives (i.e., logrolling)." Las Vegas Taxpayer Accountability Comte. v. City Council of City of Las Vegas, 125 Nev. 165, 176-77, 208 P.3d 429, 436-37 (2009).

In considering single-subject challenges, courts must first determine the initiative's purpose or subject. "To determine the initiative's purpose or subject, this court looks to its textual language and the proponents' arguments." Las Vegas Taxpayer, 125 Nev. at 180, 208 P.3d at 439. Courts also will look at whether the description of effect articulates an overarching purpose and explains how provisions relate to a single subject. Id.

Furthermore, and most recently, in *Helton v. Nevada Voters First PAC*, 138 Nev. Adv. Op. 45, 512 P.3d 309 (2022), the Nevada Supreme Court stated that "even if an initiative petition proposes more than one change, each of which could be brought in separate initiative petitions, the proper consideration is whether the changes are functionally related and germane to each other and the petition's subject." *Id.*, 512 P.3d at 314. The Court found that "(b)oth categories of changes proposed in the ... initiative concern the election process in Nevada and more specifically how

candidates for the specifically defined partisan offices are presented to voters and elected." Id. 512 P.3d at 314-15.

In this case, the Court finds that the primary purpose of the Petition, clear from both its text and the description of effect, is the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases. Further, the Court finds that the Petition's text, its description of effect, and the arguments of the Defendants in briefing and at hearing confirm the Petition's primary purpose. And unlike the petition at issue in Helton, for example, the Petition does not appear to present multiple changes that could be considered to be unrelated in any event. Section 1 sets out the substantive purpose of the proposal Section 2 describes the scope of Section 1's proposal; and Section 3 provides a definition of "recovered," for purposes of the proposed new statute. All three sections of the Petition, therefore. are functionally related and germane both to the primary purpose of the Petition and to one another

The Court is unconvinced by Plaintiffs' arguments because Plaintiffs have not identified multiple "subjects" under any reading of Nevada statutory or case law authority. For example, the fact that the term "civil cases" covers more than one type of civil action does not constitute a single-subject violation, because the primary purpose of the Petition is the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases generally. See, e.g., Nev. R. Civ. Proc., 1, 2, and 3.

The Court finds the Petition does not violate NRS 295.009(1)(a)'s single-subject requirement.

#### 2. The Petition Does Not Violate Article 19, Section 3's "Full-Text" Requirement

See Helton, 512 P.3d at 315 n.5: "A subject is the overall thing being discussed, whereas a change is the

Under Article 19, Section 3 of the Nevada Constitution, proponents must "include the full text of the measure proposed" with a filed initiative petition. Nev. Const. art. 19, § 3. Plaintiffs contend that some other statutory text beyond that which proponents have proposed should be included with the Petition, because they speculate that the Petition, should it become law, may

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<sup>26</sup> alteration or modification of existing law. See 'Subject,' Black's Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019) (defining "subject" as "[t]he matter of concern over which something is created")."

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have some future effect on those other provisions of law. The Court disagrees that this is what Article 19, Section 3 requires, and finds that every provision that is proposed to be circulated for signatures and to be considered by the electorate is included with the filed Petition, and that therefore there is no violation of the full-text requirement. To rule otherwise would not only be speculative, but would interfere unnecessarily with the people's right to the initiative power, if each proposed petition had also to contain the text of any and all other laws that might possibly be affected by the petition's enactment.

### 3. The Petition's Description Of Effect Is Legally Adequate

Under NRS 295.009(1)(b), every initiative must "[s]et forth, in not more than 200 words, a description of the effect of the initiative or referendum if the initiative or referendum is approved by the voters." The purpose of the description is to "prevent voter confusion and promote informed decisions." Nevadans for Nev. v. Beers, 122 Nev. 930, 939, 142 P.3d 339, 345 (2006). Thus, "[t]he importance of the description of effect cannot be minimized, as it is what the voters see when deciding whether to even sign a petition." Coal. For Nev. 's Future v. RIP Com. Tax, Inc., No. 69501, 2016 WL 2842925 at \*2 (2016) (unpublished disposition) (citing Educ. Initiative PAC v. Comm. To Protect Nev. Jobs, 129 Nev. 35, 37, 293 P.3d 874, 876 (2013)). "[T]he description of effect may hold even more impact with respect to a referendum, since merely gathering sufficient signatures to place a referendum on the ballot guarantees a change to the law regardless of the election's outcome." Id. (citing Nev. Const. art. 19, § 1(3) (providing that, if the voters approve the referendum, the statute "shall stand as the law of the state and shall not be amended, annulled repealed, set aside, suspended or in any way made inoperative except by the direct vote of the people," and if the voters disapprove the statute or resolution, it is rendered void)).

The Nevada Supreme Court has repeatedly held that "a description of effect must be straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative, and it must not be deceptive or misleading." Educ. Initiative PAC, 129 Nev. at 42, 293 P.3d at 879 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). It must also "explain the ramifications of the proposed amendment" in order to allow

voters to make an informed decision. Nev. Judges Ass'n v. Lau, 112 Nev. 51, 59, 910 P.2d 898, 903 (1996).

This Court finds that the Petition's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law. The description of effect is straightforward, succinct, under 200 words, and there is no basis for a finding of any argumentative language as written. The Court finds that Plaintiffs fail to meet their burden of showing that the Petition's description of effect does not comply with NRS 295.009.

With their Complaint, Plaintiffs filed numerous declarations regarding the opinions of multiple persons in various fields regarding what Plaintiffs believe may be the eventual effects of the Petition should it one day become law, including what they contend are potential effects on government programs, like Medicaid, that can receive reimbursement funds through subrogation claims upon settlement or damages awards at the conclusion of civil actions. The Court makes no findings regarding the truth or falsity of the claims in Plaintiffs' declarations, but believes these sorts of potential effect to be too speculative and hypothetical to be required to be included in the Petition's description. Most of the speculative effects Plaintiffs identify "do not concern the initiative's primary goal," and instead "involve how the initiative may apply in a variety of hypothetical situations." Nevadans for Reproductive Freedom v. Washington, 140 Nev. Adv. Op. 28, 2024 WL 1688083, at \*5 (Nev. Apr. 18, 2024).

Furthermore, these and any other perceived effects of the Petition upon which Plaintiffs or their declarants opine can be the subject of political speech, lobbying efforts, or campaign materials in opposition to the passage and enactment of the Petition when, and if, it is transmitted to the Nevada Legislature or qualifies for placement on the ballot at a general election ballot. As the Supreme Court has noted, "the description of effect ... does not serve as the full, detailed explanation, including arguments for and against, that voters receive prior to a general election," and "once enough signatures have been gathered to place the initiative on the ballot, the Secretary of State will draft a neutral summary of the initiative, which does not have a word limit, and committees will draft arguments for and against the passage of the initiative, both of which will be

placed on the ballot, instead of the description of effect." *Helton*, 512 P.3d at 317 n.6. (citing *Educ*. *Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 39–40).

Additionally, because the description of effect of an initiative petition is, by law, limited in length, it cannot constitutionally be required to delineate every downstream effect that an initiative may have; to conclude otherwise could obstruct, rather than facilitate, the people's right to the initiative process. *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 38. In the words of the Nevada Supreme Court, "an opponent of a ballot initiative [can often] identify some perceived effect of an initiative that is not explained by the description of effect, challenge the initiative in district court, and block the people's right to the initiative process." But the "[s]tatutes enacted to facilitate the initiative process cannot be interpreted so strictly as to halt the process." *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 47.

The Court finds the description of effect of the Petition satisfies Nevada's NRS 295.009 requirements, as the plain language of the description is straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative.

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Nevada's single subject rule.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Article 19, Section 3.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs' challenges to Initiative Petition S-04-2023 are rejected, and Plaintiffs' complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2024.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

·	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2	Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the First Judicial District
3	Court, and that on May 1024, I deposited for mailing, postage paid, at Carson City,
4	Nevada, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order addressed as follows:
5	
6	Alex Velto, Esq.
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Julie Harkleroa

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Judicial Assistant, Dept. 1

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1 BRADLEY S. SCHRAGER, ESQ. (SBN 10217) DANIEL BRAVO, ESQ. (SBN 13078) BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Tele.: (702) 996-1724 Email: bradley@bravoschrager.com Email: daniel@bravoschrager.com 5 Attorneys for Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, 6 Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery 7 8 9 10

REC'D & FILL. 2024 MAY 15 PM 1: 17 WILLIAM SCOTT LOTA CLEAN

DEPUTY

### IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY and NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION.

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Defendants.

Case No.: 24 OC 00056 1B

Dept. No.: I

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a Delaware corporation; MATT GRIFFIN. JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES, and TIA WHITE, individuals; "NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY," a registered Nevada political action committee; and FRANCISCO AGUILAR, in his official capacity as Nevada Secretary of State,

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### 1 NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER 2 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CORRECTED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' LEGAL 3 CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024 was entered in the above-4 captioned matter on the 13th day of May, 2024. A true and correct copy of the Order 5 6 is attached hereto as Exhibit A. 7 **AFFIRMATION** 8 The undersigned hereby affirm that the foregoing document does not contain 9 the social security number of any person. 10 DATED this 13th day of May, 2024. 11 BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP 12 By: 13 BRADLEY S. SCHRAGER, ESQ. (SBN 10217) 14 DANIEL BRAVO, ESQ. (SBN 13078) 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 15 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Tele.: (702) 996-1724 16 Email: bradley@bravoschrager.com Email: daniel@bravoschrager.com 17 Attorneys for Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt 18 Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles, Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 13th day of May, 2024, I served the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER by depositing a true copy of the same via electronic mail, per the April 16, 2024, Stipulation, as follows:

Deepak Gupta, Esq.
Matthew W.H. Wessler, Esq.
Jonathan E. Taylor, Esq.
Thomas Scott-Railton, Esq.
Jessica Garland, Esq.
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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

By: Dannielle Fresquez, an Employee of BRAVO SCHRAGER LLP

### INDEX OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.	Document Title	No. of Pages	
A	Corrected Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order Denying Plaintiffs' Legal Challenge to Initiative Petition S-04-2024	10	

# **EXHIBIT A**

REC'D & FILED

2024 MAY 13 AM 6: 33

WILLIAM SCOTT HOEN CLERK

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

vs.

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., A
DELAWARE CORPORATION; MATT
GRIFFIN, JOHN GRIFFIN, SCOTT GILLES,
AND TIA WHITE, INDIVIDUALS;
NEVADANS FOR FAIR RECOVERY, A
REGISTERED NEVADA POLITICAL
ACTION COMMITTEE; AND FRANCISCO
AGUILAR, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY
AS NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE.

Defendant

Case No.: 24 OC 00056 1B

Dept No. 1

# CORRECTED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS' LEGAL CHALLENGE TO INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024

This matter came before this Court following a complaint filed by Plaintiffs Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability and Nevada Justice Association (collectively, "Plaintiffs") challenging the legal sufficiency of Initiative Petition S-04-2024 (the "Petition").

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS

295.061. After briefing according to a schedule to which the parties stipulated, the Court held a hearing on May 6, 2024, regarding Plaintiffs' legal challenge to the Petition.

As indicated by this Court in all initiative hearings, this Court takes no position as to the merit of the initiative but seeks to determine if the requirements of NRS 295.009, et al and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

Initially, the Court would note that Plaintiffs have made strong argument's as to the initiative having the effect of precluding access to legal counsel, reducing the reimbursement to the State Medicaid fund, and changing the calculation of contingent fees by removal of medical expenses from the calculations thereof. All of these arguments against the initiative may or may not have merit, but are not germane to whether the requirements of NRS 295.009 and Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution have been complied with.

The Court, having reviewed the papers and pleadings on file, considered the matter, being fully advised, and good cause appearing, finds, concludes, and orders as follows:

### FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW1

### A. FINDINGS OF FACT

### 1. Initiative Petition S-04-2024

On March 18, 2024, Tia White, on behalf of Nevadans for Fair Recovery, filed the Petition with the Nevada Secretary of State. The Petition seeks to amend Title 1, Chapter 7 of the Nevada Revised Statutes by adding a new section thereto that seeks to limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

Any findings of fact which are more appropriately considered conclusions of law shall be treated as such, and any conclusions of law which are more appropriately considered findings of fact shall be treated as such.

 in full:

If enacted, this initiative will limit the fees an attorney can charge and receive as a contingency fee in a civil case in Nevada to 20% of any amount or amounts recovered, beginning in 2027.

The Petition includes a description of effect as required by NRS 295.009(1)(b), which reads,

In Nevada currently, most civil cases do not limit an attorney's contingent fee percentages, except that such fees must be reasonable. Current law does, however, limit attorney fees in medical malpractice cases to 35% of any recovery, and caps contingency fees for a private attorney contracted to represent the State of Nevada to 25% of the total amount recovered.

### 2. Procedural History

On April 8, Plaintiffs filed their complaint, pursuant to NRS 295.061, challenging the legal sufficiency of the Petition. On April 12, Plaintiffs filed a memorandum in support of their complaint.

On April 16, the parties stipulated to, and the Court ordered, a briefing schedule for this matter. On April 19, Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., Matt Griffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles. Tia White, and Nevadans for Fair Recovery (collectively, "Defendants") filed a response memorandum. After briefing, this Court held a hearing on the matter on May 6.

As an initial matter, it is important to state that at hearing both parties agreed that in a preelection challenge to an initiative petition, the only issues for the Court concern whether the Petition complies with the requirements of NRS 295.009 and any pertinent procedural provisions of Article 19 of the Nevada Constitution. The Court does not inquire into, and does not consider, either the substantive validity of the proposal or the positive or negative qualities, as policy, of its provisions.

### B. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

### 1. The Petition Does Not Violate Nevada's Single Subject Rule

NRS 295.009(1) provides that "[e]ach petition for initiative or referendum must ... [e]mbrace but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto." Subsection 2 of that statute explains that an initiative "embraces but one subject and matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto, if the parts of the proposed initiative ... are functionally related and germane to each other in a way that provides sufficient notice of the general subject of, and of the interests likely to be affected by, the proposed initiative." NRS 295.009(2).

The single-subject requirement "facilitates the initiative process by preventing petition drafters from circulating confusing petitions that address multiple subjects." Nevadans for the Prot of Prop. Rights, Inc. v. Heller, 122 Nev. 894, 902, 141 P.3d 1235, 1240 (2006). Thus, "the single-subject requirement helps both in promoting informed decisions and in preventing the enactment of unpopular provisions by attaching them to more attractive proposals or concealing them in lengthy, complex initiatives (i.e., logrolling)." Las Vegas Taxpayer Accountability Comte. v. City Council of City of Las Vegas, 125 Nev. 165, 176-77, 208 P.3d 429, 436-37 (2009).

In considering single-subject challenges, courts must first determine the initiative's purpose or subject. "To determine the initiative's purpose or subject, this court looks to its textual language and the proponents' arguments." Las Vegas Taxpayer, 125 Nev. at 180, 208 P.3d at 439. Courts also will look at whether the description of effect articulates an overarching purpose and explains how provisions relate to a single subject. Id.

Furthermore, and most recently, in *Helton v. Nevada Voters First PAC*, 138 Nev. Adv. Op. 45, 512 P.3d 309 (2022), the Nevada Supreme Court stated that "even if an initiative petition proposes more than one change, each of which could be brought in separate initiative petitions, the proper consideration is whether the changes are functionally related and germane to each other and the petition's subject." *Id.*, 512 P.3d at 314. The Court found that "(b)oth categories of changes proposed in the ... initiative concern the election process in Nevada and more specifically how

candidates for the specifically defined partisan offices are presented to voters and elected." *Id.*, 512 P.3d at 314-15.

In this case, the Court finds that the primary purpose of the Petition, clear from both its text and the description of effect, is the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases. Further, the Court finds that the Petition's text, its description of effect, and the arguments of the Defendants in briefing and at hearing confirm the Petition's primary purpose. And unlike the petition at issue in Helton, for example, the Petition does not appear to present multiple changes that could be considered to be unrelated in any event. Section 1 sets out the substantive purpose of the proposal; Section 2 describes the scope of Section 1's proposal; and Section 3 provides a definition of "recovered," for purposes of the proposed new statute. All three sections of the Petition, therefore, are functionally related and germane both to the primary purpose of the Petition and to one another.

The Court is unconvinced by Plaintiffs' arguments because Plaintiffs have not identified multiple "subjects" under any reading of Nevada statutory or case law authority. For example, the fact that the term "civil cases" covers more than one type of civil action does not constitute a single-subject violation, because the primary purpose of the Petition is the limitation of contingency fees in civil cases generally. See, e.g., Nev. R. Civ. Proc., 1, 2, and 3.

The Court finds the Petition does not violate NRS 295.009(1)(a)'s single-subject requirement.

### 2. The Petition Does Not Violate Article 19, Section 3's "Full-Text" Requirement

Under Article 19, Section 3 of the Nevada Constitution, proponents must "include the full text of the measure proposed" with a filed initiative petition. Nev. Const. art. 19, § 3. Plaintiffs contend that some other statutory text beyond that which proponents have proposed should be included with the Petition, because they speculate that the Petition, should it become law, may

See Helton, 512 P.3d at 315 n.5: "A subject is the overall thing being discussed, whereas a change is the alteration or modification of existing law. See 'Subject,' Black's Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019) (defining "subject" as "[t]he matter of concern over which something is created")."

1 have some future effect on those other provisions of law. The Court disagrees that this is what Article 19, Section 3 requires, and finds that every provision that is proposed to be circulated for 2 signatures and to be considered by the electorate is included with the filed Petition, and that 3 therefore there is no violation of the full-text requirement. To rule otherwise would not only be 4 speculative, but would interfere unnecessarily with the people's right to the initiative power, if 5 each proposed petition had also to contain the text of any and all other laws that might possibly be affected by the petition's enactment.

#### 3. The Petition's Description Of Effect Is Legally Adequate

Under NRS 295.009(1)(b), every initiative must "[s]et forth, in not more than 200 words a description of the effect of the initiative or referendum if the initiative or referendum is approved by the voters." The purpose of the description is to "prevent voter confusion and promote informed decisions." Nevadans for Nev. v. Beers, 122 Nev. 930, 939, 142 P.3d 339, 345 (2006). Thus, "[t]he importance of the description of effect cannot be minimized, as it is what the voters see when deciding whether to even sign a petition." Coal. For Nev. 's Future v. RIP Com. Tax. Inc., No. 69501, 2016 WL 2842925 at \*2 (2016) (unpublished disposition) (citing Educ. Initiative PAC v. Comm. To Protect Nev. Jobs, 129 Nev. 35, 37, 293 P.3d 874, 876 (2013)). "[T]he description of effect may hold even more impact with respect to a referendum, since merely gathering sufficient signatures to place a referendum on the ballot guarantees a change to the law regardless of the election's outcome." Id. (citing Nev. Const. art. 19, § 1(3) (providing that, if the voters approve the referendum, the statute "shall stand as the law of the state and shall not be amended, annulled repealed, set aside, suspended or in any way made inoperative except by the direct vote of the people," and if the voters disapprove the statute or resolution, it is rendered void)).

The Nevada Supreme Court has repeatedly held that "a description of effect must be straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative, and it must not be deceptive or misleading." Educ. Initiative PAC, 129 Nev. at 42, 293 P.3d at 879 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). It must also "explain the | ramifications of the proposed amendment" in order to allow

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voters to make an informed decision. Nev. Judges Ass'n v. Lau, 112 Nev. 51, 59, 910 P.2d 898. 903 (1996).

This Court finds that the Petition's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law. The description of effect is straightforward, succinct, under 200 words, and there is no basis for a finding of any argumentative language as written. The Court finds that Plaintiffs fail to meet their burden of showing that the Petition's description of effect does not comply with NRS 295.009.

With their Complaint, Plaintiffs filed numerous declarations regarding the opinions of multiple persons in various fields regarding what Plaintiffs believe may be the eventual effects of the Petition should it one day become law, including what they contend are potential effects on government programs, like Medicaid, that can receive reimbursement funds through subrogation claims upon settlement or damages awards at the conclusion of civil actions. The Court makes no findings regarding the truth or falsity of the claims in Plaintiffs' declarations, but believes these sorts of potential effect to be too speculative and hypothetical to be required to be included in the Petition's description. Most of the speculative effects Plaintiffs identify "do not concern the initiative's primary goal," and instead "involve how the initiative may apply in a variety of hypothetical situations." Nevadans for Reproductive Freedom v. Washington, 140 Nev. Adv. Op. 28, 2024 WL 1688083, at \*5 (Nev. Apr. 18, 2024).

Furthermore, these and any other perceived effects of the Petition upon which Plaintiffs or their declarants opine can be the subject of political speech, lobbying efforts, or campaign materials in opposition to the passage and enactment of the Petition when, and if, it is transmitted to the Nevada Legislature or qualifies for placement on the ballot at a general election ballot. As the Supreme Court has noted, "the description of effect ... does not serve as the full, detailed explanation, including arguments for and against, that voters receive prior to a general election,' and "once enough signatures have been gathered to place the initiative on the ballot, the Secretary of State will draft a neutral summary of the initiative, which does not have a word limit, and committees will draft arguments for and against the passage of the initiative, both of which will be

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placed on the ballot, instead of the description of effect." Helton, 512 P.3d at 317 n.6. (citing Educ. Initiative PAC, 129 Nev. at 39-40).

Additionally, because the description of effect of an initiative petition is, by law, limited in length, it cannot constitutionally be required to delineate every downstream effect that an initiative may have; to conclude otherwise could obstruct, rather than facilitate, the people's right to the initiative process. *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 38. In the words of the Nevada Supreme Court, "an opponent of a ballot initiative [can often] identify some perceived effect of an initiative that is not explained by the description of effect, challenge the initiative in district court, and block the people's right to the initiative process." But the "[s]tatutes enacted to facilitate the initiative process cannot be interpreted so strictly as to halt the process." *Educ. Initiative PAC*, 129 Nev. at 47.

The Court finds the description of effect of the Petition satisfies Nevada's NRS 295.009 requirements, as the plain language of the description is straightforward, succinct, and non-argumentative.

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Nevada's single subject rule.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024's description of effect meets the requirements of Nevada law.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED and declared that Initiative Petition S-04-2024 does not violate Article 19, Section 3.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs' challenges to Initiative Petition S-04-2023 are rejected, and Plaintiffs' complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

Dated this \_\_/3 day of May, 2024.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the First Judicial District Court, and that on May 2024, I deposited for mailing, postage paid, at Carson City, Nevada, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order addressed as follows: Alex Velto, Esq. Nathan Ring, Esq. Reese Ring Velto PLLC 200 S Virginia Street, Suite 655 Reno, NV 89501 alex@rrvlawers.com nathan@rrvlawvers.com Deepak Gupta, Esq. Matthew W.H. Wessler, Esq. Jonathan E. Taylor, Esq. Thomas Scott-Railton, Esq. Jessica Garland, Esq. Gupta Wessler, LLP 2001 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 deepak@guptawessler.com Bradley S. Schrager, Esq. Daniel Bravo, Esq. Bravo Schrager LLP 6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200 Las Vegas, NV 89113 bradley@bravoschrager.com daniel@bravoschrager.com Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General Laena St-Jules, Senior Deputy Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 100 North Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701-4717 lstjules@ag.nv.gov

Julie Harkleroad

Judicial Assistant, Dept. 1

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### **FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT MINUTES**

CASE NO. 24 OC 00056 1B

TITLE:

**UBER SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS** 

FOR LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND NEVADA JUSTICE ASSOCIATION VS

<u>UBER TECHNOLOGIES ; MATT</u> GRIFFIN; JOHN GRIFFIN; SCOTT

GILLES; TIA WHITE; "NEVADANS FOR

FAIR RECOVERY: A REGISTERED
NEVADA POLITICAL COMMITTEE:
AND FRANCISCO AGUILAR, IN HIS
CAPACITY AS NEVADA SECRETARY

OF STATE

05/06/24 – DEPT. I – HONORABLE JAMES T. RUSSELL C. Franz, Clerk – Not Reported

## <u>COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY ND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CHALLENGING INITIATIVE PETITION S-04-2024</u>

Present: Deepak Gupta, Alex Velto and Thomas Scott-Ralton, counsel for Plaintiffs; Bradley Schrager and Laena St. Jules, counsel for Defendants.

Deepak and Schrager argued that matter.

**COURT ORDERED:** It takes the matter under submission.

The Court minutes as stated above are a summary of the proceeding and are not a verbatim record. The hearing held on the above date was recorded on the Court's recording system.

#### DRICT COURT CIVIL COVER SHEE.

Carson City County, Nevada
Case No. OCOOSU (

(Assigned by Clerk's Office)

(Assigned by Clerk's Office)						
I. Party Information (provide both home and mailing addresses if different)						
Plaintiff(s) (name/address/phone):			Defendant(s) (n21124 cdfeR/ph8ic):PM 4:04			
Uber Sexual Assault Survivors for Legal Accountability			Uber Technologies, Inc., Math Giffin, John Griffin, Scott Gilles,			
and Nevada Justice Association			Tia White, "Nevagans for Fair Recovery," and Francisco Aguilar			
			in his capacity as Nevada Secretary of State			
Attorney (name/address/phone):			Attorney (name/address/phone):			
, (		rtttorne	y (maine, address, phone).			
Alex Velto			Bradley Schrager			
200 S. Virginia St., Suite 655			6675 South Tenaya Way, Suite 200			
Reno, Nevada	a 89501		Las Vegas, Nevada 89113			
II. Nature of Controversy (please s.	elect the one most applicable filing to	na halow)				
Civil Case Filing Types	elect the one most applicable filing ty	ve vetow)	<del></del>			
Real Property			Torts			
Landlord/Tenant	Negligence		Other Torts			
Unlawful Detainer	Auto		Product Liability			
Other Landlord/Tenant	Premises Liability		Intentional Misconduct			
Title to Property	Other Negligence		Employment Tort			
Judicial Foreclosure	Malpractice		Insurance Tort			
Foreclosure Mediation Assistance	Medical/Dental		Other Tort			
Other Title to Property	Legal					
Other Real Property	Accounting					
Condemnation/Eminent Domain	Other Malpractice					
Other Real Property						
Probate	Construction Defect & Con	tract	Judicial Review/Appeal			
Probate (select case type and estate value)	Construction Defect		Judicial Review			
Summary Administration	Chapter 40		Petition to Seal Records			
General Administration	Other Construction Defect		Mental Competency			
Special Administration	Contract Case	1	Nevada State Agency Appeal			
Set Aside Surviving Spouse	Uniform Commercial Code		Department of Motor Vehicle			
Trust/Conservatorship	Building and Construction		Worker's Compensation			
Other Probate	Insurance Carrier		Other Nevada State Agency			
Estate Value	Commercial Instrument		Appeal Other			
Greater than \$300,000 \$200,000-\$300,000	Collection of Accounts		Appeal from Lower Court			
\$100,001-\$199,999	Employment Contract		Other Judicial Review/Appeal			
\$25,001-\$100,000	Other Contract					
\$20,001-\$25,000 \$2,501-20,000						
\$2,500 or less						
Civil Writ			Other Civil Filing			
Civil Writ			Other Civil Filing			
Writ of Habeas Corpus	Writ of Prohibition		Compromise of Minor's Claim			
Writ of Mandamus	Other Civil Writ		Foreign Judgment			
Writ of Quo Warrant			Other Civil Matters			
Business Co	urt filings should be filed using th	e Business	Court civil coversheet			
4/8/2024						
Date		Signa	ure of jurifating party or representative			

See other side for family-related case filings.