AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

SS:

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, Joan M. Krull, do state and aver to the following:

1. The attached letter is a true and accurate description of the hardships my family and I have faced since the announced closing of Conserve School's four year college preparatory school.

2. The closing of the school at the end of this school year creates an immediate and irreparable harm on my family and child.

Joan M. Krull
Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me and in my presence this 24th day of February, 2009.

Michelle M. Salmeron
Notary Public

☐ Proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person who appeared before me.

MICHELLE M. SALMERON
Commission # 1651962
Notary Public - California
Los Angeles County
My Comm. Expires Mar 14, 2010

February 22, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the mother of Brendan Krull, a freshman at Conserve School. The decision to change the direction of Conserve School has had a severe and negative impact on our family. We live in Southern California, but made a commitment to send Brendan to Conserve School in Northern Wisconsin because of the unique and high quality education offered there. The environmental emphasis is so important to humanity and we were thrilled he could be exposed to such a forward thinking institution.

Our son Brendan has never been happier at school and never felt more a part of a team than he feels at Conserve. He has struggled throughout his life to find a place among his peers at school. The student body at Conserve is very unique. At an age when many adolescents are striving to conform, students at Conserve appreciate and welcome kids who are different. This atmosphere helps kids to fully reach their potential, rather than being stifled by the peer pressure at a typical high school. Watching our son mature and excel under the direction of the fine teachers at Conserve and with the encouragement of his peers has been a joy. The culture at Conserve School fosters independence, imagination and maturity. To see him finally happy and evolving in this environment only to have the rug pulled out from under him is heartbreaking.

Our family life was turned upside down at the announcement on January 30th that Conserve School would no longer be a four-year college preparatory school and there was no place for my son during any transition plans. We were in shock and disbelief. I thought "There is no way they would do this. This is completely against the values of the school. How can they blindside us like this? It is the end of January. We have not even thought about other high schools for Brendan. Why would we? Where should we begin? Where will he go?"

Over the next several days we called a number of boarding schools and the responses were virtually identical. The admissions staff with whom we spoke told us that spots were limited for sophomores and applications were either past due or due almost immediately. He would have to retake any applicable test (such as the SSAT) and they needed the scores, recommendations, transcripts and his finished application as soon as possible. I could not even wrap my mind around beginning the application process at this point.

Early February is very late to begin applying for next fall, let alone to determine to which schools to apply. Since the announcement, we have scrambled to apply to three different schools. It is hard to determine if our child will be happy and protected at a school just by viewing a website. Do they have programs that will enhance his education and develop his gifts? Will he fit in? We would never have considered applying to schools without

first visiting them and really having a feel for whether they would be appropriate for our child. But now we find ourselves writing responses to questions trying to express why he should have a place in their sophomore class next year when we began looking at the school days before.

Our local public high school, Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, California, was never an option for Brendan. Brendan was harassed by students in the middle school he attended, and those same students are now at the public high school. In addition, the average class size of the public high school is 40 students relative to Conserve School's student to teacher ratio of 12 to 1. Brendan thrives in a small classroom setting.

When Brendan applied to Conserve School, we spent several months researching the school and, ironically, trying to ascertain whether it was financially viable. We were assured that the finances were solid. In fact, when I asked what kind of fundraising they did, I was told they had minor fundraisers for the PSO. We did not choose Conserve School lightly, but are now being forced to choose another school in a matter of weeks, without the opportunity for us or our son to visit the campus and thoughtfully make a decision.

While Conserve has allowed several boarding schools to come to campus and make presentations to the students, Conserve School has done little else to support the students other than complete recommendations and provide transcripts. We suggested that they offer trips to some of the schools located nearer Conserve, but they indicated that they were not willing to provide such trips.

Brendan's grades have been impacted. He has been trying to find the enthusiasm to apply to other schools and do a good job on the applications while at the same time trying to keep focused on his classes. Also, from an application perspective, it is difficult to write essays explaining why you want to attend a particular school when only a week before you were perfectly content where you were and would never consider going anywhere else. The past couple of weeks have been up for grabs as students tried to absorb the shock, listen to various school presentations, apply to the new schools, get teacher recommendations, interview with new schools, all while trying to go to class. At the same time, many of the teachers and staff at Conserve have been fired. The same people who are filling the parental role while our son is away from home have also been stunned to learn they will be losing their jobs and their homes.

I would like to quote from an essay Brendan has written to one of the new schools he applied to:

> In my Conserve family, consisting of all of my friends, and some of the teachers, who are also my friends, I am one of the people who likes to make jokes, and I also love to just hang out and have fun. If someone needs help, I will help them, and I am comfortable asking for help. I play games with my friends, and we always have loads of fun doing so. I think that leaving my family here at Conserve will be one of the hardest things that I have ever had to do in my life, because of how attached to them I have become. I have feelings of great joy and of sadness for Conserve

School. I have had a lot of fun here, and have made a huge amount of new friends. I have had the best school year of my life, and have loved it. If I did not have this year, I would not have all of the friends that I have. I hope that I can stay in touch with them, once I leave, and that wherever I go, I can meet new friends who will not only support me like my friends here at Conserve have, but that I can meet friends who share the same interests as me. For example, I love to play Dungeons and Dragons. Here, I have found many people who share that interest, and I hope that wherever I go, there are other people who share that interest with me. Conserve has given me a year of high school that I will remember for the rest of my life, and I hope that as I go on in life, I can have even more memories that are as great as the ones that I got from Conserve School.

Brendan has been thriving at Conserve School. We are so proud of him. We have watched him mature during his time away from home. The dormitory environment has been a terrific learning experience for him. He carries himself more confidently than when we dropped him off in August of 2008. Conserve School provides unparalleled educational opportunities for an economically diverse and academically gifted cross-section of students. It is an ideal place to mold young minds. It is very special.

Respectfully yours,

Joan M. Krull

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