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**IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
MISSOULA COUNTY**

VAN GARDEREN, et. al.)
)
Plaintiffs,)
)
v.)
)
STATE OF MONTANA, et. al.)
)
Defendants.)

Case No.: DV-23-541
Judge: Hon. Jason Marks

DECLARATION OF SCARLET VAN GARDEREN

I, Scarlet van Garderen, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am a Plaintiff in this action. I offer this Declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this Declaration and could and would testify competently to those facts if called as a witness.

2. I am a seventeen-year-old rising senior in high school. I am actively involved in school activities including jazz band, concert band, marching band, and speech and debate. I enjoy programming, rock climbing, drawing, and learning how to play new musical instruments.

3. I live in Belgrade, Montana. I have lived in Montana my whole life.

4. I am transgender. When I was born, I was designated as male on my birth certificate but my gender identity is female.

5. I am currently receiving health care that would be prohibited by Montana Senate Bill 99 ("the Act").

6. Before I understood my gender identity, I could not see a future for myself, even a couple years forward. I did not feel safe in my body, especially when puberty began.

7. In early spring of 2021, as I began to understand my gender identity more, I first told one of my close friends that I was transgender. In May 2021, I came out to my mom, and eventually to the rest of my family. My parents and brother have accepted me and provided me with the love and support I need.

8. Throughout the summer and fall of 2021, I continued talking with my family about my gender identity. I began to transition socially, using a new name and female pronouns and wearing more feminine or neutral clothing. By December of 2021, I was using female pronouns and my preferred name exclusively in all areas of my life.

9. In November 2021, I began seeing a therapist. Eventually, I was referred to a doctor to discuss gender-affirming care.

10. In or around February of 2022, I started seeing an endocrinologist and, after discussing options with my parents and my doctor, I was prescribed puberty blockers.

11. After I turned 16, in July 2022, I started gender-affirming hormone therapy. I am currently seeing a nurse practitioner and a naturopath to provide this medical treatment along with regular visits with my therapist.

12. In December 2022, I legally changed my name to Scarlet.

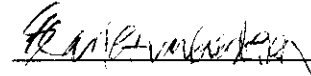
13. Puberty blockers and hormone therapy treatments have changed my life. Since starting gender-affirming medical care, I feel like a weight has been lifted. I can picture a future for myself again. Because I now feel safer in my body, I have been able to get more involved with friends, school, and activities. In addition to playing French horn and mellophone in my school bands, I am going to be the leader of the brass section this coming school year. It has been a relief to get to spend more time doing the things I love. I've even started learning more instruments in the past year: flute, trumpet, clarinet, and guitar, to name a few!

14. The prospect of losing access to my medical care is unthinkable to me. I do not believe I could live without the gender-affirming care I am now receiving.

15. I love living in Montana. I've lived here my entire life, my close friends are here, and I want to go to college here. I don't want to be forced out of the state I love to access the health care I need.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATED this 0th day of July, 2023.



Scarlet van Garderen