

Exhibit

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CAUSE NO. _____

LAZARO LOE, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *et al.*,

Defendants.

§ IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
§
§
§
§ TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
§
§
§
§ _____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT
§

DECLARATION OF NORA NOE

1. My name is Nora Noe. I am over 18 years of age, of sound mind, and capable of making this affidavit. The facts stated in this affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct. I would testify competently to these facts if called to do so.

2. I am a Plaintiff in this case. I am bringing claims on behalf of myself and as the parent and next friend of my son, Nathan Noe,¹ who is also a Plaintiff in this Action.

3. I have lived in Texas since 2009. My husband and I have three children. We currently live in Williamson County. We are members of PFLAG.

4. Our oldest child, Nathan, is a transgender boy. He was assigned female at birth but he is a boy.

5. Nathan was a healthy baby and a very happy, outgoing, gifted child. He excelled in school, had healthy social friendships, was part of a competitive swim team and was a leader

¹ Nora Noe and Nathan Noe are both pseudonyms. My son (who is a minor) and I are both proceeding pseudonymously to protect our right to privacy and ourselves from discrimination, harassment, and violence, as well as retaliation for seeking to protect our rights.

in his martial arts school. He was an active volunteer, and has been recognized in our community for raising funds to assist those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

6. Around age ten and eleven, we noticed a dramatic change in Nathan's personality. He became withdrawn, he stopped participating at school, and his grades fell. He started adopting compulsive and repetitive behaviors, like holding his breath, and requiring elaborate and strict routines around daily tasks. My husband and I had no idea what was wrong, but we knew we needed to get him help. We talked to our family doctor and found a mental health provider to do a full psychological evaluation. That provider ruled out a number of potential conditions, including autism, and we were told that Nathan had anxiety and possibly obsessive-compulsive disorder. We continued with therapy and stress management, while learning about triggers that caused the most distressing symptoms. While Nathan still tended to withdraw and stay private, my husband and I made sure to nurture open lines of communication.

7. When school moved online because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nathan just could not participate. I later learned that this was because the sound of his own voice was so distressing to him, and because he did not want to see his own face on the computer screen. It got so bad that we had to pull him out of school and do homeschooling for the remainder of his eighth-grade year.

8. The worst of this came when Nathan was thirteen, which was when he began menstruation. We could barely get him to leave his room. He would curl up on the sofa and it seemed any participation was unbearable. He couldn't seem to put any words together to explain what he was experiencing, and just looked haunted and empty. It was horrible. We visited our doctor who ruled out any underlying physical or hormonal illness.

9. A few months after his thirteenth birthday, around March of 2020, Nathan came out as transgender. We had planned to go swimming one day, and I knew something was wrong when he told me he'd changed his mind and didn't want to go. I asked him what was wrong, and he said, "I think I might not be a girl."

10. Internally, I was shocked - this was not something I expected, and I thought Nathan was struggling with the wish that he wouldn't have to deal with menstruation. I had no experience with a female-to-male transition, and had no understanding of what this meant for Nathan. Outwardly, I primarily listened. I reassured Nathan that we loved him no matter what, and that we would figure this out together as a family. I also told him that being trans comes with some extra challenges, and that we would need to get support to help us understand that. I knew we needed to find a therapist who could help. As we talked, it was evident that this had nothing to do with sexuality or attraction to any other gender - this was about Nathan's body and self.

11. Nathan asked if I would help him tell the rest of the family. He had already talked to his younger sister, and both of his siblings were immediately supportive and they continue to be fiercely protective of their big brother. When I talked to my husband, Nathan's dad, he was initially skeptical, and wanted to make sure we were taking the healthiest path for our child. He is wary of unnecessary medical intervention, and wanted to make sure that he learned as much as possible about what we considered for Nathan's care.

12. We took Nathan to see our family doctor, who did an evaluation and diagnosed Nathan with gender dysphoria, and Nathan started seeing a therapist who we found on a resource list of local providers with expertise in adolescent gender dysphoria. Because getting his period was so profoundly distressing, I also took Nathan to see my OBGYN, who prescribed birth control pills meant to stop him from getting his period. This was the first active medical

intervention we took for Nathan's transition. However, the pills did not control his menstrual symptoms effectively. The OBGYN recommended that we seek out the care of a specialist in adolescent medicine who could guide us with Nathan's care.

13. We began using his chosen name only a few weeks after he first came out to me. It was hard at first to remember, but I got some good advice about what to do if I used the wrong name or pronouns to remind myself. Because it was early in the pandemic, only a few people were aware of this social transition - our family, my mother who lives close by, and a few close friends. When Nathan did return to school, I requested that the school use his chosen name and the pronouns he/him, and they were very supportive of this. We have since then updated his legal documents to reflect this name and gender marker change.

14. In March 2021, Nathan started seeing a new physician who had expertise in treating kids with gender dysphoria. That doctor did an evaluation and walked us through the risks and potential benefits of Nathan starting testosterone. At home, Nathan, his father, and I discussed all of the potential side effects of testosterone, and also the potential impact on fertility, including that there might be some unknown risks. As Nathan's father and I have always done for our children when they have medical issues, we weighed the risks and benefits of this medical treatment, including the risk of doing nothing. Given Nathan's distress and the severity of his gender dysphoria, doing nothing was not an option for us.

15. Nathan started taking testosterone in November 2021, shortly before his 15th birthday. Since starting taking testosterone, Nathan has finally gone through a true male puberty. He stopped menstruating and his voice deepened. Before he started testosterone, he had been wearing large hoodies everyday (even in the summer) to hide in. After he began his hormone therapy, he began taking pride in his appearance. He started wearing clothes that fit him and

were appropriate for the hot weather in Texas. He returned to the activities that he loves - joining the high school choir, swimming and being social. As his voice deepened, he started taking leadership roles again, joining school clubs and even traveling to an out-of-state convention for journalism. Before he started testosterone, only his family and friends knew and affirmed that he was a boy. Now, anyone he meets immediately understands that he is a boy. He is so much more confident and comfortable. He is back to being an outstanding student, and we are so proud of him.

16. Nathan says his sophomore year of high school was the best year of his life so far, because he finally got to start the school year feeling like himself, and being comfortable in his own skin.

17. When he heard news of SB 14 passing, though, Nathan started having trouble focusing in school again, and I noticed that some of his prior anxiety symptoms seemed to be returning as well. My younger kids have been afraid about what all of this means for our family.

18. Nathan has already lost his local doctor for his gender affirming healthcare. In May 2023 we received a notice that our future appointments were canceled because the doctor's office was no longer providing gender affirming healthcare for minors in anticipation of the new law. Nathan also wants to get top surgery, which we have been discussing as a family, and which Nathan's doctor recommended as further treatment for his gender dysphoria. We had a consultation scheduled with a surgeon, but it was canceled after SB 14 passed. Having top surgery is, for Nathan, something he needs to fully alleviate his gender dysphoria, so he can look like the teenage boy he knows himself to be.

19. For now, we will take him to new doctors three hours away to continue monitoring Nathan's hormone replacement therapy. If SB 14 is allowed to take effect, we will be

forced to travel out of state to continue his care. This will be challenging for us. In addition to my two younger children, I am also the primary caregiver for my elderly mother, who lives next door to us. Traveling will also impact my ability to work at my job and will disrupt Nathan's school schedule—not to mention the added expense.

20. We love our community here in Texas. We can't and don't want to leave the state. I have been looking forward to having Nathan close to home when he goes off to college, but he is now considering going somewhere out of state because our government is making him feel unwelcome in his home.

21. If Nathan were forced to stop taking testosterone, I would be seriously worried for his wellbeing. I worry that he will not have access to the healthcare that he needs, that his schoolwork and his relationships would suffer once again, and that his future would be in jeopardy. I cannot allow that to happen to my child.

22. My name is [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED]. My address is [REDACTED]. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing (attached) is true and correct.

Executed in Williamson County, State of Texas on Jul 10, 2023.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nora Noe
Nora Noe (Jul 10, 2023 10:49 CDT)

Nora Noe