

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

)	
FATMA MAROUF AND BRYN ESPLIN,)	
a married couple; and)	
NATIONAL LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION,)	
a non-profit membership organization)	
)	
<i>Plaintiffs,</i>)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 1:18-cv-378 (APM)
)	
ALEX AZAR, in his official capacity as)	
Secretary of the UNITED STATES)	
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN)	
SERVICES, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
<i>Defendants.</i>)	

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Counsel for Plaintiffs Fatma Marouf, Bryn Esplin, and National LGBT Bar Association (“Plaintiffs”); counsel for Defendants United States Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”), Administration for Children and Families (“ACF”), Office of Refugee Resettlement (“ORR”), Alex Azar, in his official capacity as Secretary of HHS, Lynn Johnson, in her official capacity as Assistant Secretary for ACF, and Jonathan Hayes, in his official capacity as Acting Director of ORR (collectively the “Federal Defendants”); and counsel for United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (“USCCB”) respectfully submit this Joint Status Report.¹

Pursuant to the Court’s request, counsel for all parties conferred on December 10 and 13, 2018, with respect to a potential settlement. The parties agree that the discussions have been productive, but additional time and information are necessary to determine whether an agreeable

¹ Ms. Johnson and Mr. Hayes were automatically substituted as defendants in this case by operation of Fed. R. Civ. P. 25(d).

proposal may be facilitated. Subject to the Court's approval, the parties propose that an additional Joint Status Report shall be submitted on January 14, 2019, after further discussions have taken place.

Dated: December 14, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

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*Counsel for Defendant United States
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 14, 2018, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Joint Status Report was filed using the Court's CM/ECF system, which will serve all counsel of record.

By: /s/ Kenneth Y. Choe
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