

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
HUNTINGTON DIVISION**

CHRISTOPHER FAIN; ZACHARY MARTELL; BRIAN MCNEMAR, SHAWN ANDERSON a/k/a SHAUNTAE ANDERSON; and LEANNE JAMES, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

**Civil Action No. 3:20-cv-00740
Hon. Robert C. Chambers, Judge**

v.

WILLIAM CROUCH, in his official capacity as Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources; **CYNTHIA BEANE**, in her official capacity as Commissioner for the West Virginia Bureau for Medical Services; **WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES, BUREAU FOR MEDICAL SERVICES; TED CHEATHAM**, in his official Capacity as Director of the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency; and **THE HEALTH PLAN OF WEST VIRGINIA, INC.**

Defendants.

DEFENDANTS WILLIAM CROUCH, CYNTHIA BEANE, AND WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES, BUREAU FOR MEDICAL SERVICES' ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

NOW COME the Defendants, William Crouch, Cynthia Beane, and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Medical Services (“these Defendants”), by counsel, Lou Ann S. Cyrus, Roberta F. Green, Caleb B. David, Kimberly M. Bandy, and Shuman McCuskey Slicer PLLC, and for their Answer to Plaintiffs’ First Amended Class Action Complaint state and aver as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Paragraph 1 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint states legal conclusions and definitions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 1 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

2. Paragraph 2 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint states legal conclusions and definitions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 2 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

3. Responding to Paragraph 3 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny the allegation in the first sentence and demand strict proof thereof. The second sentence of Paragraph 3, referring to the State of West Virginia providing health care coverage for employees and their eligible dependents through the Public Employees Insurance Agency ("PEIA") does not apply to these Defendants, so no response is deemed necessary. The remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 3 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions and definitions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 3 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

4. Paragraph 4 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint states legal conclusions and definitions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised

against them in Paragraph 4 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants further specifically deny that the Medicaid Plan contains "Exclusions" as described therein and demand strict proof thereof.

5. Paragraph 5 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint states legal conclusions and definitions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 5 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants further specifically deny that the Medicaid Plan contains "Exclusions" as described therein and demand strict proof thereof.

6. Paragraph 6 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants state, consistent with their contemporaneously filed Motion to Dismiss Class Allegations, that the Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint does not meet the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and, therefore, must be stricken. Additionally, these Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 6 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants further deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to any of the relief requested against them.

7. Paragraph 7 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint states legal conclusions and definitions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to any of the relief requested against them and demand strict proof thereof.

PARTIES

8. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 8 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

9. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 9 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

10. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 10 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

11. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 11 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

12. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 12 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

13. Responding to Paragraph 13 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants admit that William Crouch is Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and that Defendant Crouch was acting under the color of state law at all times relevant to Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint. The remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 13 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the remaining allegations as written and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised

against William Crouch in Paragraph 13 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

14. Responding to Paragraph 14 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants admit that Cynthia Beane is Commissioner of the Bureau for Medical Services and that Defendant Beane was acting under the color of state law at all times relevant to Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint. The remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 14 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the remaining allegations as written and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against Cynthia Beane in Paragraph 14 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

15. Responding to Paragraph 15 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants admit that Defendant West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Medical Services ("BMS") is a state agency that administers the Medicaid program within West Virginia. These Defendants further admit that Defendant BMS maintains the West Virginia Medicaid State Plan and files amendments to the plan with the appropriate regulatory authorities. These Defendants further admit that West Virginia Medicaid is jointly funded by the State of West Virginia and the federal government. These Defendants admit that BMS is a recipient of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including Medicaid funding. The remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 15 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants admit that BMS plays a role in setting payment rates, subject to review and approval by The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ("CMS"), admit that BMS reimburses providers for services that are outside of managed

care, and deny the remaining allegations as written and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 15 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

16. The allegations contained in Paragraph 16 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. Further, the allegations contained in Paragraph 16 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny such allegations as written and demand strict proof thereof.

17. The allegations contained in Paragraph 17 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. Further, the allegations contained in Paragraph 17 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny such allegations as written and demand strict proof thereof.

18. These Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 18 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants further deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to any of the relief requested against them. These Defendants further specifically deny that the Medicaid Plan contains "Exclusions" as described therein and demand strict proof thereof.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

19. The allegations contained in Paragraph 19 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response

is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 19 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

20. The allegations contained in Paragraph 20 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 20 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

21. The allegations contained in Paragraph 21 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 21 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

22. The allegations contained in Paragraph 22 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 22 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

23. The allegations contained in Paragraph 23 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants do not dispute that this Court has personal jurisdiction over these Defendants.

FACTS

A. Sex, Gender Identity, and Gender Dysphoria

24. The allegations contained in Paragraph 24 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph

24 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

25. The allegations contained in Paragraph 25 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants are without knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 25 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 25 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

26. The allegations contained in Paragraph 26 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 26 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 26 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

27. The allegations contained in Paragraph 27 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 27 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 27 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

28. The allegations contained in Paragraph 28 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and,

therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 28 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 28 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

29. The allegations contained in Paragraph 29 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 29 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 29 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

30. The allegations contained in Paragraph 30 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 30 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 30 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

31. The allegations contained in Paragraph 31 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 31 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations

contained in Paragraph 31 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

32. The allegations contained in Paragraph 32 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 32 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 32 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

33. The allegations contained in Paragraph 33 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 33 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 33 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

34. The allegations contained in Paragraph 34 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 34 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 34 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

35. The allegations contained in Paragraph 35 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 35 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 35 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

36. The allegations contained in Paragraph 36 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 36 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 36 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

37. The allegations contained in Paragraph 37 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 37 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 37 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

38. The allegations contained in Paragraph 38 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants

lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 38 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 38 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

39. The allegations contained in Paragraph 39 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 39 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 39 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

40. The allegations contained in Paragraph 40 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 40 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 40 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

41. The allegations contained in Paragraph 41 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 41 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations

contained in Paragraph 41 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

42. The allegations contained in Paragraph 42 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 42 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 42 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

43. The allegations contained in Paragraph 43 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 43 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 43 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

44. The allegations contained in Paragraph 44 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 44 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 44 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

45. The allegations contained in Paragraph 45 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 45 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 45 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

46. The allegations contained in Paragraph 46 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 46 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 46 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

47. The allegations contained in Paragraph 47 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 47 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 47 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

48. The allegations contained in Paragraph 48 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants

lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 48 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 48 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

49. The allegations contained in Paragraph 49 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state generalized allegations that are not directed at these Defendants and, therefore, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 49 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 49 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

B. Defendants' Targeted and Discriminatory Exclusion of Gender-Confirming Care¹

1. Medicaid health coverage

50. The allegations contained in Paragraph 50 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants admit that Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that provides health insurance for Medicaid-eligible individuals. These Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 50 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as written and demand strict proof thereof.

¹ These Defendants have included the headings from Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint *only* for ease of reference and convenience of the Court and the parties. These Defendants neither admit nor endorse the contents of any heading. Indeed, these Defendants specifically deny that any "Targeted and Discriminatory Exclusion" exists.

51. The allegations contained in Paragraph 51 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants admit, upon information and belief, the allegations contained in Paragraph 51 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

52. The allegations contained in Paragraph 52 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 52 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

53. The allegations contained in Paragraph 53 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 53 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

54. The allegations contained in Paragraph 54 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants state that the phrase "substantial portion of the cost of providing medical assistance" is vague, ambiguous, and capable of multiple meanings, and therefore, these Defendants are unable to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 54 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as written, and therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

55. The allegations contained in Paragraph 55 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 55 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as written and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants deny that they have violated the stated provision and demand strict proof thereof.

56. The allegations contained in Paragraph 56 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 56 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as written and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants deny that they have violated the stated provision and demand strict proof thereof.

57. The allegations contained in Paragraph 57 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 57 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as written and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants deny that they have violated the stated provision and demand strict proof thereof.

58. These Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 58 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

59. The allegations contained in Paragraph 59 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 59 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

60. Responding to Paragraph 60 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants admit that Defendant BMS maintains the West Virginia Medicaid State Plan and files amendments to the plan with the appropriate regulatory authorities. These Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 60 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as written and demand strict proof thereof.

61. These Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 61 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

62. Responding to Paragraph 62 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants admit that each MCO provides Medicaid participants with access to Medicaid-covered health services through their defined network of providers and hospitals. These Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 62 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as written and demand strict proof thereof.

63. Responding to Paragraph 63 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants admit that the Medicaid Policy Manual provides that the Medicaid Plan does not cover, *inter alia*, transsexual surgery. These Defendants admit: that Unicare excludes coverage for, *inter alia*, "[s]ex transformation procedures and hormone therapy for sex transformation procedures;" that The Health Plan provides that "[s]ex change, hormone therapy for sex transformation, and gender transition procedures/expenses will not be paid for by The Health Plan;" These Defendants further admit that Aetna Better Health excludes coverage for, *inter alia*, "[s]ex transformation procedures and hormone therapy for sex transformation procedures." These Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 63 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as written and demand strict proof thereof.

64. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 64 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

2. State employee health coverage

65. The allegations contained in Paragraph 65 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 65 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 65 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

66. The allegations contained in Paragraph 66, including sub-sections (A) and (B) of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 66, including sub-sections (A) and (B) of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

67. The allegations contained in Paragraph 67 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 67 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 67 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

68. The allegations contained in Paragraph 68 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 68 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and therefore, deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 68 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

C. The Denial of Care to Plaintiffs

1. Plaintiff Christopher Fain (Medicaid)

69. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 69 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

70. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 70 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

71. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 71 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

72. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 72 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

73. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 73 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

74. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 74 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

75. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 75 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

76. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 76 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

77. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 77 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

78. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 78 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

79. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 79 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

80. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 80 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

81. These Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 81 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

82. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 82 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

83. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 83 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

84. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 84 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

85. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 85 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

86. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 86 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

2. Plaintiff Shauntae Anderson (Medicaid)

87. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 87 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

88. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 88 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

89. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 89 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

90. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 90 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

91. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 91 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

92. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 92 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

93. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 93 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

94. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 94 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

95. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 95 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

96. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 96 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

97. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 97 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

98. Upon information and belief, these Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 98 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

99. Upon information and belief, these Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 99 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

100. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 100 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

101. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 101 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

102. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 102 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

103. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 103 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

104. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 104 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

105. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 105 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

3. Plaintiff Leanne James (PEIA)

106. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 106 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

107. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 107 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

108. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 108 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

109. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 109 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

110. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 110 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

111. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 111 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

112. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 112 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

113. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 113 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

114. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 114 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

115. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 115 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

116. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 116 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

117. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 117 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

118. The allegations contained in Paragraph 118 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 118 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

119. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 119 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

120. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 120 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

121. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 121 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

122. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 122 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

123. The allegations contained in Paragraph 123 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 123 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

124. The allegations contained in Paragraph 124 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To

the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 124 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

125. The allegations contained in Paragraph 125 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 125 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

126. To the extent Paragraph 126 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint intends to allege that Plaintiffs were denied coverage because they are transgendered, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 126 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. To the extent Paragraph 126 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint intends to allege that Plaintiff was denied coverage because Plaintiff is transgendered, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 126 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

4. Plaintiffs Zachary Martell and Brian McNemar (PEIA)

127. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 127 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

128. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 128 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

129. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 129 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

130. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 130 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

131. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 131 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

132. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 132 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

133. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 133 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

134. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 134 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

135. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 135 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

136. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 136 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

137. These Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 137 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

138. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 138 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

139. The allegations contained in Paragraph 139 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 139 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

140. The allegations contained in Paragraph 140 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 140 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

141. The allegations contained in Paragraph 141 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 141 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof.

142. The allegations contained in Paragraph 142 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 142 of Plaintiffs' First

Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof. To the extent Paragraph 142 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint intends to allege that Plaintiffs were denied coverage because they are transgendered, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 142 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

143. The allegations contained in Paragraph 143 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 143 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and, therefore, deny the same and demand strict proof thereof. To the extent Paragraph 143 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint intends to allege that Plaintiffs were denied coverage because they are transgendered, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 143 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

144. To the extent Paragraph 144 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint intends to allege that Plaintiffs were denied coverage because they are transgendered, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 144 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. To the extent Paragraph 144 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint intends to allege that Plaintiffs were denied coverage because they are transgendered, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 144 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

145. The allegations contained in Paragraph 145 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a

response is deemed required, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs meet the prerequisites for class treatment pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and demand strict proof thereof.

146. The allegations contained in Paragraph 146 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs meet the prerequisites for class treatment pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and demand strict proof thereof.

Medicaid Class

147. Responding to Paragraph 147 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs can maintain a class action. These Defendants further deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 147 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

State Employee Health Plan Class

148. Responding to Paragraph 148 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs can maintain a class action. These Defendants further deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 148 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

The Health Plan Subclass

149. Responding to Paragraph 149 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs can maintain a class action. These Defendants further deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 149 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

150. Responding to Paragraph 150 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs can maintain a class action. Further, the allegations contained in Paragraph 150 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 150 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

151. Responding to Paragraph 151 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs can maintain a class action. The allegations contained in Paragraph 151 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 151 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants specifically deny that a number of approximately 40 prospective plaintiffs is "so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable," such that a class action is warranted.

152. The allegations contained in Paragraph 152 and subparagraphs A through D thereto of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 152 and subparagraphs A through D thereto of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

153. Responding to Paragraph 153 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs can maintain a class action. The allegations contained in Paragraph 153 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny

the allegations contained in Paragraph 153 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

154. Responding to Paragraph 154 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs can maintain a class action. The allegations contained in Paragraph 154 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 154 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

155. Responding to Paragraph 155 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs can maintain a class action. The allegations contained in Paragraph 155 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 155 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

156. Responding to Paragraph 156 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs can maintain a class action. The allegations contained in Paragraph 156 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 156 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

**Deprivation of Equal Protection
U.S. Const. Amend. XIV**

Plaintiffs Christopher Fain and Shauntae Anderson, on behalf of the Medicaid Class, Against Defendants Crouch and Beane for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

Plaintiffs Leanne James, Zachary Martell, and Brian McNemar, on behalf of the State Employee Health Plan Class Against Defendant Cheatham for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

Plaintiffs Zachary Martell and Brian McNemar, on Behalf of The Health Plan Subclass Against Defendant Cheatham for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

157. These Defendants restate and reincorporate their responses to Paragraphs 1 through 156 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

158. The allegations contained in Paragraph 158 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 158 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

159. The allegations contained in Paragraph 159 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants state that the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution speaks for itself. Further, these Defendants deny any alleged violation of same and demand strict proof thereof.

160. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 160 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants specifically deny any wrongdoing or unlawful discrimination, intentional or otherwise, by Defendant Crouch, and demand strict proof thereof.

161. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 161 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants specifically deny any wrongdoing or unlawful discrimination, intentional or otherwise, by Defendant Beane, and demand strict proof thereof.

162. The allegations contained in Paragraph 162 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 162 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

163. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 163 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants state that there are no "Exclusions" as described as it pertains to the Medicaid Plan and demand strict proof thereof.

164. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 164 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants state that there are no "Exclusions" as described as it pertains to the Medicaid Plan and demand strict proof thereof.

A. Discrimination on the Basis of Sex

165. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 165 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants state that there are no "Exclusions" as described as it pertains to the Medicaid Plan and demand strict proof thereof.

166. The allegations contained in Paragraph 166 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a

response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 166 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as written and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants further deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 166 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

167. The allegations contained in Paragraph 167 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 167 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as written and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants further deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 167 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

168. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 168 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

B. Discrimination on the Basis of Transgender Status

169. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 169 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants state that there are no "Exclusions" as described as it pertains to the Medicaid Plan and demand strict proof thereof.

170. The allegations contained in Paragraph 170 and subparagraphs A through D thereto of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 170 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants further deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or

implied, raised against them in Paragraph 170 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

171. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 171 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants state that there are no "Exclusions" as described as it pertains to the Medicaid Plan and demand strict proof thereof.

172. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 172 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants state that there are no "Exclusions" as described as it pertains to the Medicaid Plan and demand strict proof thereof.

173. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 173 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants state that there are no "Exclusions" as described as it pertains to the Medicaid Plan and demand strict proof thereof.

COUNT II
Violation of Section 1557 of the
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
42 U.S.C. § 18116

Plaintiff Christopher Fain and Shauntae Anderson on behalf of the Medicaid Class, Against Defendant BMS, Defendant Crouch, and Defendant Beane for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief, and Individually Against Defendant BMS for Compensatory Damages

Plaintiffs Zachary Martell and Brian McNemar, on behalf of the State Employee Health Plan Class and on Behalf of The Health Plan Subclass Against Defendant The Health Plan for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief, and Individually Against Defendant The Health Plan for Compensatory Damages

174. These Defendants restate and reincorporate their responses to Paragraphs 1 through 173 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

175. Responding to Paragraph 175 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny that Plaintiffs can maintain a class action. Additionally, the allegations contained in Paragraph 175 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 175 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

176. The allegations contained in Paragraph 176 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants state that the Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act speaks for itself.

177A. The allegations contained in Paragraph 177A of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 177A of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

177B. The allegations contained in Paragraph 177B of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 177B of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

178A. The allegations contained in Paragraph 178A of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 178A of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

178B. The allegations contained in Paragraph 178B of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint are not directed at these Defendants, and, as such, no response is required. To

the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 178B of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint.

179. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 179 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants further deny that the Medicaid Plan contains an "Exclusion" as described.

180. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 180 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants further deny that the Medicaid Plan contains an "Exclusion" as described.

181. The allegations contained in Paragraph 181 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 181 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

182. The allegations contained in Paragraph 182 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 182 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. These Defendants further deny that the Medicaid Plan contains an "Exclusion" as described.

183. The allegations contained in Paragraph 183 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 183 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

184. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 184 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants specifically deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in

Paragraph 184 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

185. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 185 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants specifically deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 185 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Additionally, these Defendants deny that the Medicaid Plan contains an "Exclusion" as described.

186. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 186 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Further, these Defendants specifically deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, express or implied, raised against them in Paragraph 186 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

187. These Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 187 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof.

COUNT THREE
Violation of the Medicaid Act's Availability Requirements
42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(A)

Plaintiff Christopher Fain and Shauntae Anderson on behalf of the Medicaid Class, Against Defendant Crouch and Beane for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

188. These Defendants restate and reincorporate their responses to Paragraphs 1 through 187 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

189. The allegations contained in Paragraph 189 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 189 of Plaintiffs'

First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Additionally, these Defendants deny that the Medicaid Plan contains an “Exclusion” as described.

190. The allegations contained in Paragraph 190 of Plaintiffs’ First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants state that 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(A) speaks for itself.

191. The allegations contained in Paragraph 191 of Plaintiffs’ First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 191 of Plaintiffs’ First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Additionally, these Defendants deny that the Medicaid Plan contains an “Exclusion” as described.

COUNT FOUR
Violation of the Medicaid Act’s Comparability Requirements
42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(B)

Plaintiff Christopher Fain and Shauntae Anderson on behalf of the Medicaid Class, Against Defendant Crouch and Beane for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

192. These Defendants restate and reincorporate their responses to Paragraphs 1 through 191 of Plaintiffs’ First Amended Class Action Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

193. The allegations contained in Paragraph 193 of Plaintiffs’ First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 193 of Plaintiffs’ First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Additionally, these Defendants deny that the Medicaid Plan contains an “Exclusion” as described.

194. The allegations contained in Paragraph 194 of Plaintiffs’ First Amended Class Action Complaint state a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a

response is deemed required, these Defendants state that 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(B) speaks for itself.

195. The allegations contained in Paragraph 195 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, these Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 195 of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and demand strict proof thereof. Additionally, these Defendants deny that the Medicaid Plan contains an "Exclusion" as described.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

196. Responding to the *ad damnum* paragraph and subparagraphs A through H and all sub-subparagraphs thereto of Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint, these Defendants deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing raised against them in Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint and deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to any of the relief requested therein as against them.

197. These Defendants deny any and all allegations not specifically admitted herein.

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint is/may be barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint fails to state a claim against these Defendants upon which relief may be granted.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants deny that they breached any affirmative duty or standard of care with respect to the Plaintiffs or putative class members or that any of their acts or omissions proximately caused or contributed to any injuries or damages to the Plaintiffs or putative class members.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants assert the defenses of assumption of risk, contributory negligence and/or comparative negligence, as the facts and circumstances as they are developed may indicate that these defenses are appropriate.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants reserve the right to assert such claims, counterclaims, cross-claims, third-party claims or other claims as investigation and discovery may prove applicable, and hereby reserve all of their rights associated with any such claim or potential claim.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants reserve the right to have the fault, and/or negligence of all persons determined in the manner provided by law and hereby reserve their right of contribution and/or indemnity, as the same may prove applicable.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants assert the affirmative defense of superseding and intervening cause. These Defendants assert all of its rights and privileges to introduce evidence at trial regarding the negligence of another party or a non-party as set forth in *Sydenstricker v. Mohan*, 618 S.E.2d 561 (W.Va. 2005) and/or West Virginia Code 55-7-13d.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' allegations are inappropriate for class certification, as the purported class lacks the requisite numerosity, commonality, adequacy, superiority, and predominance requirements.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants deny that the Plaintiffs are entitled to recover any amount whatsoever against them. In particular, Defendants deny that the Plaintiffs are entitled to recover exemplary damages, including punitive damages, attorneys' fees, and costs, against them.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Pursuant to *Pittsburgh Elevator v. W. Va. Board of Regents*, 310 S.E.2d 675 (W. Va. 1983) and *Parkulo v. West Virginia Board of Probation and Parole*, 483 S.E.2d 507 (W. Va. 1996), these Defendants assert that they have full and complete immunity from liability for all damages sought by Plaintiffs to the extent such damages may exceed or are excluded by the insurance coverage extended to these Defendants by the State of West Virginia.

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

To the extent Plaintiffs seek to recover punitive damages from these Defendants, these Defendant assert that any such damages are precluded pursuant to West Virginia Code § 55-17-4.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants are entitled to absolute immunity from this litigation by virtue of the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article VI, Section 35 of the West Virginia Constitution, which prohibit suits against agents of the State of West Virginia.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Qualified immunity shields these Defendants from liability because their conduct did not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person in the position of these Defendants would have known. *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, 457 U.S. 800, 818 (1982).

FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs have failed to exhaust their administrative remedies, and, therefore, their claims are barred as a matter of law.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants deny that they deprived any Plaintiff of Equal Protection under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, deny that they violated Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and deny that they violated the Medicaid Act.

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants deny that the Plaintiffs are entitled to any compensatory, injunctive, or declaratory relief as against them.

SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

These Defendants specifically reserve the right to plead any and all affirmative defenses not specifically raised herein that may arise during discovery or otherwise.

WHEREFORE, having fully answered Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint filed herein, Defendants William Crouch, Cynthia Beane, and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Medical Services demand that Plaintiffs' First Amended Class Action Complaint against them be dismissed, with prejudice, and that they be awarded costs expended herein and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.

THESE DEFENDANTS REQUEST A TRIAL BY JURY ON ALL ISSUES SO TRIABLE.

**WILLIAM CROUCH, CYNTHIA
BEANE, and WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN RESOURCES, BUREAU FOR
MEDICAL SERVICES,
By Counsel,**

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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
HUNTINGTON DIVISION**

**CHRISTOPHER FAIN; ZACHARY
MARTELL; BRIAN MCNEMAR, SHAWN
ANDERSON a/k/a SHAUNTAE ANDERSON;
and LEANNE JAMES**, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

**Civil Action No. 3:20-cv-00740
Hon. Robert C. Chambers, Judge**

v.

WILLIAM CROUCH, in his official capacity as
Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia
Department of Health and Human Resources;
CYNTHIA BEANE, in her official capacity as
Commissioner for the West Virginia Bureau for
Medical Services; **WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
RESOURCES, BUREAU FOR MEDICAL
SERVICES; TED CHEATHAM**, in his official
Capacity as Director of the West Virginia Public
Employees Insurance Agency; and **THE
HEALTH PLAN OF WEST VIRGINIA, INC.**

Defendants.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Now come the Defendants, William Crouch, Cynthia Beane and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, by counsel, and do hereby certify that on the 12th day of November, 2021, the foregoing **“DEFENDANTS WILLIAM CROUCH, CYNTHIA BEANE, AND WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES, BUREAU FOR MEDICAL SERVICES’S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS’ FIRST AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT”** was electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send a Notice of Electronic Filing to, and constitutes service on:

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