

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

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF
BALTIMORE,

Plaintiff,

v.

XAVIER BECERRA, in his official capacity as
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES; and U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:19-cv-01672-GLR

JOINT STATUS REPORT

The parties submit this joint status report pursuant to the Court's October 17, 2022 order, ECF No. 127, to provide an update regarding the status of related appellate proceedings.

As the parties have reported to the Court, Defendants filed notices of appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit of the final judgments in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York that vacated the rule that Plaintiff challenges in this case. *See State of New York v. U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Servs.*, No. 1:19-cv-4676-PAE, Notice of Appeal, ECF No. 255 (S.D.N.Y.) (*New York*); *Planned Parenthood Fed'n of Am., Inc. v. Azar*, No. 1:19-cv-5433-PAE, Notice of Appeal, ECF No. 123 (S.D.N.Y.) (*Planned Parenthood*); *Nat'l Family Planning & Reproductive Health Ass'n v. Azar*, No. 1:19-cv-5435-PAE, Notice of Appeal, ECF No. 129 (S.D.N.Y.) (*NFPRHA*). Intervenors in the Southern District of New York litigation also filed notices of appeal. *See New York*, Notice of Appeal, ECF No. 254; *Planned Parenthood*, Notice of Appeal, ECF No. 122; *NFPRHA*, Notice of Appeal, ECF No. 128.

On December 7, 2022, the parties stipulated, pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 42(b)(1) and Second Circuit Rule 42.1, that the consolidated appeals should be

dismissed “without prejudice to any party’s ability to reinstate one or more of the appeals within 60 days after HHS completes the process of revisiting the rule entitled Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care, 84 Fed. Reg. 23,170 (May 21, 2019).” The Second Circuit adopted the parties’ stipulated order on December 8, 2022.

Defendants also appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, seeking review of the final judgment in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington vacating the challenged rule on November 21, 2019, *Washington v. Azar*, No. 2:19-CV-00183-SAB (E.D. Wash.), as well as of the final judgments entered in three cases in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California where the court also vacated the challenged rule, *City & County of San Francisco v. Azar*, No. 3:19-cv-2405-WHA (N.D. Cal.); *California v. Azar*, No. 3:19-cv-2769-WHA (N.D. Cal.); *County of Santa Clara v. U.S. Dep’t of Health & Human Servs.*, No. 3:19-cv-2916-WHA (N.D. Cal.). The Ninth Circuit initially scheduled oral argument for February 8, 2021 but removed the consolidated cases from its argument calendar upon Defendants’ motion. The government subsequently filed periodic status reports requesting that the appeal continue to be held in abeyance, and those requests were granted.

On April 6, 2023, the Ninth Circuit granted the government’s request that the court continue to hold the appeals in abeyance for a period of six months, or until thirty days after the issuance of a new final rule, to replace the one at issue in this litigation, whichever is sooner. The Ninth Circuit further ordered that, “[a]t the end of that period, the parties shall provide the Court with a report as to the status of the rulemaking process and may file motions to govern further proceedings.”

Dated: April 17, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Jane Lewis

Jane Lewis #20981
Assistant Solicitor
BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW
City Hall, Room 109
100 N. Holliday Street Baltimore, MD 21202
Tel: (443) 388-2190
jane.lewis@baltimorecity.gov

Seth Ard (admitted pro hac vice)
Elisha Barron (admitted pro hac vice)
Ryan C. Kirkpatrick (admitted pro hac vice)
SUSMAN GODFREY L.L.P.
1301 Avenue of the Americas, 32nd Fl
New York, New York 10019
Tel.: (212) 336-8330
sard@susmangodfrey.com
ebarron@susmangodfrey.com
rkirkpatrick@susmangodfrey.com

Daniel J. Shih (admitted pro hac vice)
SUSMAN GODFREY L.L.P.
401 Union Street, Suite 3000
Seattle, Washington 98101
Tel.: (206) 516-3880
dshih@susmangodfrey.com

Kenneth D. Upton, Jr. (admitted pro hac vice)
AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION
OF CHURCH AND STATE
1310 L Street NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 466-3234
upton@au.org

Counsel for Plaintiff

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

MICHELLE R. BENNETT
Assistant Branch Director

/s/ Bradley P. Humphreys
BRADLEY P. HUMPHREYS
(D.C. Bar No. 988057)
Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Phone: (202) 305-0878
E-mail: Bradley.Humphreys@usdoj.gov

Counsel for Defendants