

DECLARATION OF CHARLES GRESHAM

1. My name is Charles Gresham. I am competent and making this declaration on my own behalf. If called as a witness, I would testify consistent with the following:

2. I am 37 years old and live in Harrison, Arkansas, with my fiancé. I have two children, one is eighteen years old, and the other is twelve years old. Neither of my children live in the home with me. I was born in Fort Polk, Louisiana. My family moved to Arkansas in 1987 when my father got a job here. Since then, I have generally lived in or around Harrison, which is a rural area with limited job options. I did not graduate from high school, but I have a GED.

3. Most of my jobs have been in the food service industry. This included Western Sizzlin', Sonic, and Burger King. In 2015, I got a job as a labor hand with a local construction company. I worked for the construction company for about a year before I began having seizures. I was let go from the construction company because it was too dangerous for me to have a seizure while working on the job. I went back to the food service industry in 2016 as a server for The Brick Oven Restaurant. I was let go in January 2018 when my seizures caused me to miss work. My most recent job at a car wash only lasted for two days because the owner found me lying on the ground having a seizure. Although I would like to work, I am not working at this time because I have had trouble finding and keeping a job. Despite my health conditions, I can do some types of work. I need a flexible schedule because I may not be able to work all day and I need time for doctor's appointments.

4. I currently have no income. My fiancé works at a fast food restaurant and earns \$9 per hour. Her gross income is around \$1100 per month. Since I am unemployed and have no income, she supports me financially. My fiancé is also my source of transportation.

5. I have been covered by Medicaid through Arkansas Works since some time in 2015. A local insurance company helped me enroll in Arkansas Works. I go to the local Arkansas Department of Human Services office in Boone County when there are questions or to renew coverage. I am not comfortable at all with computers and generally require help from other people to go online, especially to fill something out or send in information.

6. I have some medical conditions that need to be monitored and treated. I have a seizure disorder that doctors have been unable to identify the cause of yet. I also have extreme social anxiety and asthma. The anxiety is always present, but I sometimes get "attacks" where I have shortness of breath, chest pains, a tingling sensation in my arms, and an intense headache like a migraine. The most intense part of an attack lasts at least 20 minutes and sometimes up to 3 or 4 hours. I can feel some effects of an attack for days after. On average, I would say I get three attacks per month. They are caused by intense situations, changes, or other life worries, but I cannot say exactly when one will happen.

7. With Medicaid coverage, I have been able to get the treatment and services I need. This includes visits with doctors trying to help me with my seizure disorder and monthly visits with a psychiatrist and therapist to help with my anxiety disorder. I have some tests scheduled for November that may help confirm a diagnosis for my seizure disorder. I am currently prescribed Tryptil, Keppra, and Buspirone. I also use two inhalers a month to treat my asthma. Medicaid allows me to get these prescriptions filled. I also use Medicaid to get annual check-ups.

8. I have had gaps in medical care coverage that caused me to go without the care that I needed. For example, I had a month-long gap in coverage in April 2018 that caused me to miss a visit to my therapist and three doctors' appointments. Luckily, my medications had been

filled so that I did not run out. The gap in coverage also put me behind on a possible diagnosis for my seizure disorder because of the appointments that I had to miss. If I were immediately cut off from my medication, my seizure disorder would be much worse and potentially very harmful to me, including possibly killing me. I would also suffer from the lack of treatment for my other health conditions, especially my anxiety.

9. On or about May 15, 2018, I received a notice that I would be subject to the work requirement. Somewhere around then, I also received a letter from DHS stating that I would be exempt until September 30, 2018 because I was receiving unemployment benefits. However, my unemployment benefits stopped on May 31, 2018. I did not understand that I had to let DHS know if something changed that would affect my exemption. I thought DHS would know from their records that my unemployment stopped, just like DHS knew in the first place that I was getting unemployment without me telling them.

10. In August 2018, I learned from Legal Aid of Arkansas that I should report changes in exemptions to DHS. With Legal Aid's help, I told DHS that I was no longer receiving unemployment benefits, and DHS stopped the exemption.

11. In August 2018, I needed the help of Legal Aid of Arkansas and my fiancé to set up my online Access Arkansas account. Because I am not comfortable with computers, I could not navigate the website on my own. Around the end August or early September 2018, my fiancé helped me to report an exemption for short-term disability. I would not be able to report my work activities or exemptions online without assistance.

12. With help from my fiancé and lawyer, I found out that my exemption for a short-term disability lasts until October 31, 2018. I also found out I have an exemption because I

receive SNAP benefits, but the dates on that exemption seem wrong because it includes time I was not actually receiving SNAP benefits. Keeping up with these different reporting requirements is very difficult even with help, and I could not do it alone. It never used to be this hard to keep up with my Medicaid benefits, and I used to be able to do it on my own.


13. Since the work requirements started, I have not been able to volunteer or search for jobs consistently because I don't have my own transportation, am not comfortable with computers, and may not be able to do an activity as scheduled because of my health conditions.

14. Even with the exemptions, I'm worried that I will lose my Medicaid coverage because of the work requirements. The threat of losing my health insurance has increased my anxiety. In August 2018 when I was figuring out the reporting issues, I was a nervous wreck and had more anxiety attacks than normal. Even now that I am exempt and have a lawyer for this, I always talk about the work requirements and this lawsuit with my therapist because I don't know that I will get to keep my insurance. Without coverage, my medical conditions will get worse and eventually put me in the ground. I do not want to miss out on an opportunity to figure out what is causing me to have seizures before I die from them or suffer irreversible harm.

15. I have agreed to be named as a plaintiff and participate in this lawsuit. I want to work, but I need my Medicaid coverage to be able to work. I am doing this not just because I need Arkansas Works, but also because I want to help other individuals and families who are in danger of losing Arkansas Works if this waiver is not stopped. It is important for people with mental health problems and other health conditions to have the necessary resources available for proper treatment.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above information is true and correct.

Dated: October 24, 2018


Charles Gresham