

DECLARATION OF ANNA BOOK

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

2. I am 38 years old and live in Little Rock, Arkansas. Since August 2018, I have been renting a room in an apartment. Before that, I was homeless. I have been homeless for most of the last eight years.

3. Starting near the end of July 2018, I got a job as dishwasher at a restaurant in Little Rock. I am scheduled to work four days per week for six hours each shift. I use my money from working to pay the rent, pay child support, and buy the basic things I need to live.

4. Before my current job, I was unemployed for more than two years. My last job was working as a manager at a Sonic Drive-In restaurant in Little Rock. I stopped working there in late 2015 or early 2016.

5. I signed up for Arkansas Works Medicaid around 2014 or 2015. I was homeless at that time, and Paul Atkins, a pastor at a local church that works with people who are homeless, helped me sign up online.

6. In August 2018, I received a letter telling me that I did not comply with the Medicaid work requirements in July 2018.

7. For the months of August and September 2018, I believe I complied with the work requirements. I gave Paul Atkins permission to report my work hours online and checked in with him each month to let him know how much I worked. Because I do not have a car, transportation is difficult. It is a hassle to get to Paul's church to check in with him.

8. I do not have reliable access to the internet. My cell phone does not have a data plan, so I cannot use the internet unless there is a wifi connection. I do not have wifi at home.

Also, I have tried to see government websites on my phone in the past, and those websites were hard to see and use because they were not meant for phones. I do not own a computer or tablet.

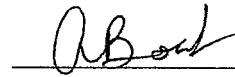
9. I used my Medicaid in September 2018 to see a doctor for an ongoing respiratory condition that I have had for several months. I was prescribed two temporary medications that helped somewhat. But, I am still having problems with my breathing. I am planning to see a doctor again soon because I do not want this condition to turn into pneumonia. In the past, I have used my Medicaid for other health needs, including treatment of a tooth abscess, which required surgery and overnight hospitalization.

10. I already have been non-compliant with the work requirements for one month. Although I have a job now, it barely gives me enough hours to meet the requirements. When I was sick last month, I had to miss work, which put me close to another month of non-compliance. While I hope to keep my current job, I am not certain how long it will last. Before this job, I was unemployed for more than two years, and even a brief time without a job would cause me to lose my health insurance. I do not think any of the exemptions from the work requirements apply to me.

11. I want to join this lawsuit because these work requirements are hurting people. For me, I might lose my insurance and, even if I work enough to keep it, reporting is a big hassle. I have to rely on someone else to do it for me because of the position I'm in. Many people I know on the streets have it worse than I do, and I don't think they will be able to keep their insurance at all. And, just because I am not paying for my insurance or don't earn much money doesn't mean I'm not contributing something to society. I spend a lot of time on my own just informally talking to homeless people on the street and trying to help them. I think that is valuable.

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

Dated: October 03, 2018



Anna Book