

Exhibit C

DECLARATION OF KARIN VLK

1. My name is Karin VLK. I am making this declaration on my own behalf in support of my effort to stop the New Hampshire 1115 Medicaid waiver from taking effect. I am also making this declaration on behalf of others who need Medicaid.

2. I am a 36 year old woman. I was born in Dallas, Texas and I live in Laconia, New Hampshire.

3. I live with my husband and three children, ages 5, 7, and 11. My youngest child will turn 6 on July 31, 2019. I have another child age 14 who lives with the child's other parent.

4. I was on Medicaid as a child, and as an adult, I have been on Medicaid since about 2016. Before 2016, I did try to enroll in Medicaid but was frustrated trying to get the paperwork together that New Hampshire Health and Human Services said it needed. I had had no medical treatment for years, so I could not provide the necessary medical paperwork. So I did not enroll.

5. I have a high school diploma. I also have a certification to provide in-home care.

6. From when I was 15 years old until I married my first husband at age 21, I received Supplemental Security Income due to my disabilities.

7. I do not receive any disability benefits now, and have not since about 2004. My husband supports me and the children through his work as a construction laborer.

8. As an adult, I have worked mostly as an in home caregiver. In those jobs, I performed tasks like helping people shop for groceries, bathe, and get ready for bed. I worked mostly with elderly adults.

9. I stopped working in May 2018 because my health problems have gotten worse, and I am no longer able to work. I am no longer physically able to do home caregiving.

10. I have a neurological degeneration of the discs in my spine. I understand that I have a progressive disease that runs in my family. I had surgery to treat the effects of this disease about ten years ago. Because it is a progressive disease, I will need surgery again. I will also need a lifetime of physical therapy and mental health treatment to cope with this progressive disease.

11. My pain level has been increasing lately as a result of my back problems. It is hard for me to walk. Basic activities like driving and going to the grocery store make me very tired. For instance, I often lack energy to take the children to the library to use the library computers.

12. Sometimes I am in so much pain that I cannot swallow food.

13. When my family was packing and moving boxes earlier this year, I felt so ill that I almost passed out.

14. I used to volunteer for my church. My church is very important in my life. But I cannot volunteer for the church any more because I do not feel well enough.

15. I understand that I need another surgery to treat my back condition. I am counting on Medicaid so that I can get surgery. If I have the surgery, I may be able to return to work after I recover. But I also understand that the surgery has no guarantees and that I will likely need future surgeries as well.

16. I do suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. I feel anxiety and depression as a result of my pain and my worry about my medical problems. Medicaid covers my counseling sessions for these conditions. Medicaid also covers my prescriptions for Clonazepan and Hydroxyzine to treat my anxiety.

17. My husband, children and I have expenses of at least \$1,800 per month in rent, utilities, grocery bills, gas, cell phone bills, and other household expenses. We do not have internet or cable at the house. We do at times get our children's clothing through a local church pantry.

18. Even though we receive SNAP food stamp benefits, we can have challenges budgeting our family's food needs. Sometimes I need to drink Ensure, which is expensive. Sometimes our pastor's wife brings over meat and cereal.

19. I am the one who does the paperwork so that my husband Josh and I and our children stay on public benefits like Medicaid. I provide Health and Human Services with copies of Josh's paystubs and other information. We both have a New Hampshire EZ online account. But we do not have internet at our home, so I rely on my phone. At times we do not have phone service due to our finances. Even when I have phone service, sometimes when I try to upload documents on my phone, I have troubles and end up needing to go to Health and Human Services in person.

20. Sometimes I do not feel well enough to travel to Health and Human Services. I have trouble keeping up with all of the paperwork that Health and Human Services needs from us. It is tiring for me to go to the office in person. Right now I do not even have a vehicle that is roadworthy to drive to Health and Human Services.

21. When I see my medical providers, I want to talk about my medical problems. I do not want to ask them to spend time completing paperwork to apply for an exemption from Medicaid work requirements.

22. Without Medicaid coverage, there is no way that my husband and I could pay for our medical care. My husband Josh needs hernia surgery. Without Medicaid, I would not be able to have back surgery or physical therapy, Josh would not be able to have hernia surgery, and we would not be able to fill our prescriptions.


23. I received a notice I will have to do 100 hours per month of work or community engagement under the waiver once my daughter turns 6. Because of my health problems, I will not be able to work, volunteer, or complete other activities.

24. Had I known about the letter that the federal government issued to state Medicaid directors on January 11, 2018 and that the letter was allowing the states to start conditioning Medicaid eligibility on a work requirement, I would have wanted to submit comments. My own health has suffered because of the times when I had no health coverage and therefore could not get the medical help I needed. I would have wanted to say that I know from my personal experiences that when people lose their Medicaid coverage, they end up paying for emergency medical care. Those people are then forced to skip other bills, like a car loan or rent. Then families end up being homeless or parents lose jobs. Losing Medicaid causes really bad results for parents and the children. If parents do not have Medicaid and do not have health care, children also suffer the consequences throughout their lives, and may end up with severe problems themselves.

25. I have agreed to be named as a plaintiff and to participate in this lawsuit as a class action representative. I am doing this not just because I need Medicaid, but because I want to help other people who are in danger of losing Medicaid if this waiver is not stopped.

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

Dated this 8 day of May, 2019.



Karin VLK