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**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

***Application for Admission Pro Hac Vice
Forthcoming*

MONTANA THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT,
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF
MONTANA, and JOEY BANKS,
M.D., on behalf of themselves and
their patients,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

STATE OF MONTANA, by and
through AUSTIN KNUDSEN, in his
official capacity as Attorney General,

Defendant.

DV-21-00999

Hon. Michael G. Moses

STATE OF MONTANA'S ANSWER

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 1 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

2. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 2 of Plaintiffs' Complaint. The allegations in Paragraph 2 of Plaintiffs' Complaint contain legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response.

3. Paragraph 3 presents conjecture and speculation, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required to any factual allegations in this paragraph, Defendants are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 3, and on that basis deny the same.

4. The allegations in Paragraph 4 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 4 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

5. The allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph 5 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. The last sentence of Paragraph 5 constitutes a legal conclusion and interpretation of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

6. The allegations in Paragraph 6 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

7. The allegations in Paragraph 7 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

8. The allegations in Paragraph 8 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

9. Defendants admit the laws were supposed to take effect on October 1, 2021. Defendants note that a preliminary injunction is currently in place, so the laws did not go into effect on October 1, 2021.

10. The allegations in Paragraph 10 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 10 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

11. The allegations in Paragraph 11 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the

extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 11 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

12. The allegations in Paragraph 12 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 12 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

13. The allegations in Paragraph 13 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 13 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

14. The allegations in Paragraph 14 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 14 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

15. Defendants deny the first sentence of Paragraph 15. In response to the remaining allegations, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

PARTIES

A. Plaintiffs

16. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 16 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

17. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 17 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

18. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 18 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

19. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 19 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

20. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 20 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

B. Defendant

21. Defendants admit the Legislature passed HB 136, HB 171, HB 140, and HB 229. In response to the remaining allegations in Paragraph 21, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

22. The allegations in Paragraph 22 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 22 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

23. The allegations in Paragraph 23 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 23 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

24. The allegations in Paragraph 24 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 24 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

25. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations about PPMT's operations in Paragraph 25 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same. The remaining allegations in Paragraph 25 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 25 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

STANDING

26. The allegations in Paragraph 28 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 28 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

27. In response to Paragraph 27, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

28. The allegations in Paragraph 28 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 28 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Abortion Care

29. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 29 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

30. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 30 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

31. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 31 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

32. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 32 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

33. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 33 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

34. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 34 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

35. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 35 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

36. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 36 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

37. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 37 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

38. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 38 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

39. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 39 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

40. Defendants deny the allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph 40. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 40 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

41. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 41 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

42. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 42 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

43. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 43 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

44. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 44 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

45. Paragraph 45 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitutes a legal conclusions and interpretation of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 45 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

46. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 46 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

47. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 47 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

B. PPMT's Provision of Abortion Care

48. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 48 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same. To the extent the allegations rely on cited authority, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

49. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 49 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

50. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 50 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

51. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 51 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same. To the extent the allegations rely on cited authority, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

52. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 52 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

53. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 53 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

54. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 54 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

55. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 55 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same. To the extent the allegations rely on cited authority, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

56. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 56 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

57. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 57 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

C. The Challenged Laws

a. The 20-Week Ban (HB 136)

58. The allegations in Paragraph 58 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

59. The allegations in Paragraph 59 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 59 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

60. The allegations in Paragraph 60 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 60 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

i. Provisions

61. The allegations in Paragraph 61 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

62. The allegations in Paragraph 62 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of

its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

63. The allegations in Paragraph 63 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

64. The allegations in Paragraph 64 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

65. The allegations in Paragraph 65 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

66. The allegations in Paragraph 66 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

ii. HB 136 Is Unconstitutional and Will Cause Immediate, Irreparable Harm

67. The allegations in Paragraph 67 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 67 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

68. The allegations in Paragraph 68 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 68 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

69. The allegations in Paragraph 69 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 69 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

70. The allegations in Paragraph 70 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 70 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

71. The allegations in Paragraph 71 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 71 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

72. The allegations in Paragraph 72 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 72 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

a. The allegations in Paragraph 72(a) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

b. The allegations in Paragraph 72(b) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

c. The allegations in Paragraph 72(c) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

73. The allegations in Paragraph 73 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 73 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

74. The allegations in Paragraph 74 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 74 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

iii. The 20-week ban is not supported by a compelling State interest

75. The allegations in Paragraph 75 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 75 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

76. Defendants admit that one stated justification was protecting fetuses from fetal pain. Defendants deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply anything else.

77. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 77 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

78. The allegations in Paragraph 78 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 78 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

79. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 79 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

80. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 80 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

81. The allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph 81 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations. The allegations in the second sentence of Paragraph 81 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

82. The allegations in Paragraph 82 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 82 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

b. The Omnibus MAB Restrictions Law (HB 171)

83. The allegations in Paragraph 83 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

84. The allegations in Paragraph 84 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of

its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

85. The allegations in Paragraph 85 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

86. The allegations in Paragraph 86 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

87. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph 87 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same. The remaining allegations in Paragraph 87 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 87 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

88. The allegations in Paragraph 88 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 88 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

89. The allegations in Paragraph 89 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 89 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

i. Mandatory Delay, Multiple-Trip, and Biased Counseling Requirements.

90. The allegations in Paragraph 90 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

91. The allegations in Paragraph 91 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

92. The allegations in Paragraph 92 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

a. The allegations in Paragraph 92(a) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best

evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

b. The allegations in Paragraph 92(b) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

c. The allegations in Paragraph 92(c) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

d. The allegations in Paragraph 92(d) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

e. The allegations in Paragraph 92(e) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

93. The allegations in Paragraph 93 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of

its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

94. The allegations in Paragraph 94 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

95. The allegations in Paragraph 95 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

96. The allegations in Paragraph 96 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

97. The allegations in Paragraph 97 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

98. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 98 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

99. The allegations in Paragraph 99 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 99 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

100. The allegations in Paragraph 100 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 100 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

a. The allegations in Paragraph 100(a) of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 100(a) of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

b. The allegations in Paragraph 100(b) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

c. The allegations in Paragraph 100(c) of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 100(c) of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

d. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in the first three sentences of Paragraph 100(d) of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same. The remaining allegations in Paragraph 100(d) purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

e. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 100(e) of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

f. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph 100(f) of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same. The remaining allegations in Paragraph 100(f) purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

g. The allegations in Paragraph 100(g) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

h. The allegations in the first two sentence of Paragraph 100(h) of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for

itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations. The remaining allegations in Paragraph 100(h) of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 100(h) of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

101. The allegations in Paragraph 101 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 101 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

102. The allegations in Paragraph 102 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 102 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

103. The allegations in Paragraph 103 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 103 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

104. Defendants deny the allegation that HB 171 forces medical providers to choose between their ethical obligations and compliance with HB 171. The remaining allegations in Paragraph 104 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute

legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent the allegations in Paragraph 104 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, it speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. If any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 104 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

105. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 105 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

106. The allegations in Paragraph 106 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

107. The allegations in Paragraph 107 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 107 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

108. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 108 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

109. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 109 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same. Defendants deny any implication that HB 171 requires giving medically inaccurate information.

110. The allegations in Paragraph 110 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

111. The allegations in Paragraph 111 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations. Paragraph 111 of Plaintiffs' Complaint also includes legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 111 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

112. The first sentence in Paragraph 112 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph 112 of Plaintiffs' Complaint. Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 112.

113. The allegations in Paragraph 113 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

114. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 114 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

115. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 115 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same. To the extent Plaintiffs cite authority in support of their allegations, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

116. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 116 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

117. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 117 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

118. The allegations in Paragraph 118 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

119. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 119 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

120. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 120 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

ii. Ban on Telehealth MAB

121. The allegations in Paragraph 121 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

122. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 122 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

123. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 123 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

124. The allegations in Paragraph 124 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 124 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

125. The allegations in Paragraph 125 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 125 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

126. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 126 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

127. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 127 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

128. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 128 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

129. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 129 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

130. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 130 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

131. The allegations in Paragraph 131 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

132. The allegations in Paragraph 132 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 132 of Plaintiffs' Complaint. In response to cited provisions in Paragraph 132, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

133. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 133 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

134. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 134 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

135. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 135 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

136. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 136 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

137. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 137 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

iii. Provider Qualification Requirements

138. The allegations in Paragraph 138 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

139. The allegations in Paragraph 139 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

140. The allegations in Paragraph 140 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 140 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

141. The allegations in Paragraph 141 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the

extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 141 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

142. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph 142 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same. The remaining allegations in Paragraph 142 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

143. The allegations in Paragraph 143 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 143 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

144. The allegations in Paragraph 144 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 144 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

145. The allegations in Paragraph 145 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 145 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

146. The allegations in Paragraph 146 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 146 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

147. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 147 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

148. Paragraph 148 presents conjecture and speculation, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required to any factual allegations in this paragraph, Defendants are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in paragraph 148, and on that basis deny the same.

149. The allegations in Paragraph 149 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

iv. Burdensome MAB Reporting Requirements

150. The allegations in Paragraph 150 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

151. The allegations in Paragraph 151 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

152. The allegations in Paragraph 152 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

153. The allegations in Paragraph 153 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 153 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

154. The allegations in Paragraph 154 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 154 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

155. The allegations in Paragraph 155 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

156. The allegations in Paragraph 156 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

157. Paragraph 157 presents conjecture and speculation, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required to any factual allegations in this paragraph, Defendants are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in paragraph 157, and on that basis deny the same.

158. Paragraph 158 presents conjecture and speculation, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required to any factual allegations in this paragraph, Defendants are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in paragraph 158, and on that basis deny the same.

159. The allegations in the first sentence of Paragraph 159 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations. The remaining allegations in Paragraph 159 present conjecture and speculation, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required to any factual allegations in this paragraph, Defendants are without sufficient information

to admit or deny the allegations in paragraph 159, and on that basis deny the same.

160. Paragraph 160 presents conjecture and speculation, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required to any factual allegations in this paragraph, Defendants are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in paragraph 160, and on that basis deny the same.

161. The allegations in Paragraph 161 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 161 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

162. The allegations in Paragraph 162 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 162 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

163. The allegations in Paragraph 163 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

164. The allegations in Paragraph 164 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the

extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 164 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

165. The allegations in Paragraph 165 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 165 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

166. The allegations in Paragraph 166 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations. To the extent Footnote 16 discusses PPMT's ability to comply with the law, Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations and therefore deny the same.

167. Paragraph 167 presents conjecture and speculation, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required to any factual allegations in this paragraph, Defendants are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in paragraph 167, and on that basis deny the same.

168. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 168 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

169. The allegations in Paragraph 169 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the

extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 169 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

170. The allegations in Paragraph 170 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

171. The allegations in Paragraph 171 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

172. The allegations in Paragraph 172 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 172 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

c. The Ultrasound Ofer (HB 140)

173. The allegations in Paragraph 173 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

174. The allegations in Paragraph 174 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the

extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 174 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

i. Provisions

175. The allegations in Paragraph 175 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

176. The allegations in Paragraph 176 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

177. The allegations in Paragraph 177 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

178. The allegations in Paragraph 178 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 178 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

ii. HB 140 is Unconstitutional and Will Cause Irreparable Harm.

179. The allegations in Paragraph 179 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 179 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

180. The allegations in Paragraph 180 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 180 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

181. The allegations in Paragraph 181 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 181 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

182. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 182 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

183. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 183 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

184. The allegations in Paragraph 184 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

185. The allegations in Paragraph 185 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

186. The allegations in Paragraph 186 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 186 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

187. The allegations in Paragraph 187 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 187 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

188. The allegations in Paragraph 188 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 188 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

189. The allegations in Paragraph 189 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 189 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

190. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 190 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

191. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 191 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

d. The Coverage Ban (HB 229)

192. The allegations in Paragraph 192 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

193. The allegations in Paragraph 193 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 193 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

i. Provisions

194. The allegations in Paragraph 194 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

195. The allegations in Paragraph 195 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence

of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

196. Defendants admit Montana uses an FFE. The remaining allegations in Paragraph 196 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 196 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

197. The allegations in Paragraph 197 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

198. The allegations in Paragraph 198 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

199. Paragraph 199 presents conjecture and speculation, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required to any factual allegations in this paragraph, Defendants are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in paragraph 199, and on that basis deny the same.

ii. HB 229 Is Unconstitutional and Will Cause Immediate, Irreparable Harm

200. The allegations in Paragraph 200 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 200 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

201. The allegations in Paragraph 201 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 201 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

202. The allegations in Paragraph 202 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 202 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

203. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 203 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

204. The allegations in Paragraph 204 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 204 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

205. The allegations in Paragraph 205 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 205 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

206. The allegations in Paragraph 206 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 206 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

207. The allegations in Paragraph 207 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 207 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

208. Defendants deny the allegations in the first sentence in Paragraph 208 of Plaintiffs' Complaint. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 208 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

209. The allegations in Paragraph 209 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 209 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

210. The allegations in Paragraph 210 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. The allegations in the last sentence of Paragraph 210 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

211. The allegations in Paragraph 211 of Plaintiffs' Complaint purport to characterize a specific bill, which speaks for itself and is the best evidence of its contents; therefore, no response is required. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations.

212. The allegations in Paragraph 212 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 212 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

e. The cumulative impact of laws on Plaintiffs and their patients

213. The allegations in Paragraph 213 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 213 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

214. The allegations in Paragraph 214 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 214 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

215. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 215 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

216. Defendants lack sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 216 of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore deny the same.

217. Paragraph 217 presents conjecture and speculation, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required to any factual allegations in this paragraph, Defendants are without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in paragraph 217, and on that basis deny the same.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

FIRST CLAIM

218. Defendants incorporate their responses to all previous paragraphs and allegations as though fully set forth herein.

219. In response to Paragraph 219, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

220. In response to Paragraph 220, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

221. The allegations in Paragraph 221 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 221 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

222. The allegations in Paragraph 222 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 222 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

223. The allegations in Paragraph 223 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 223 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

SECOND CLAIM

224. Defendants incorporate their responses to all previous paragraphs and allegations as though fully set forth herein.

225. In response to Paragraph 225, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

226. The allegations in Paragraph 226 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 226 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

227. The allegations in Paragraph 227 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 227 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

228. The allegations in Paragraph 228 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 228 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

THIRD CLAIM

229. Defendants incorporate their responses to all previous paragraphs and allegations as though fully set forth herein.

230. In response to Paragraph 230, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

231. The allegations in Paragraph 231 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the

extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 231 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

FOURTH CLAIM

232. Defendants incorporate their responses to all previous paragraphs and allegations as though fully set forth herein.

233. The allegations in Paragraph 233 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 233 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

234. The allegations in Paragraph 234 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 234 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

FIFTH CLAIM

235. Defendants incorporate their responses to all previous paragraphs and allegations as though fully set forth herein.

236. In response to Paragraph 236, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

237. The allegations in Paragraph 237 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the

extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 237 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

238. The allegations in Paragraph 237 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 237 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

SIXTH CLAIM

239. Defendants incorporate their responses to all previous paragraphs and allegations as though fully set forth herein.

240. In response to Paragraph 240, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

241. In response to Paragraph 241, Defendants refer to the cited provisions for their content and deny the allegations of this paragraph to the extent they state or imply otherwise.

242. The allegations in Paragraph 242 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 242 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

243. The allegations in Paragraph 243 of Plaintiffs' Complaint constitute legal conclusions and interpretations of law which require no response. To the

extent any response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 243 of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

The remainder of the Complaint constitutes Plaintiffs' request for relief, which requires no response. To the extent a response may be deemed required, Defendants deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to the relief sought or to any other form of relief.

GENERAL DENIAL

Defendants deny every allegation in the Complaint not expressly admitted above, including any for which Defendants deem no response to be required (should the Court determine otherwise).

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

1. Plaintiffs' Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
2. Plaintiffs' Complaint fails to state sufficient facts showing that Plaintiffs are entitled to the requested relief.
3. Plaintiffs lack standing.
4. Plaintiffs' Complaint is not justiciable.
5. HB 136, HB 171, HB 140, and HB 229 do not violate the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Montana, or Montana state law.

6. HB 136, HB 171, HB 140, and HB 229 serve and are supported by rational, legitimate, and compelling state interests.

7. Defendants reserve the right to further amend these pleadings and to add such further affirmative defenses as discovery and development of this case may disclose.

WHEREFORE, Defendants respectfully request the Court to enter an Order and Judgment:

1. Dismissing Plaintiffs' claims and finding that Plaintiffs are not entitled to any of the relief requested;
2. Awarding Defendants their attorney's fees and costs of suit;
3. A jury trial on all issues triable by jury; and
4. Any other relief the Court deems just and reasonable.

DATED this 14th day of December 2021.

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Montana Attorney General

KRISTIN HANSEN
Lieutenant General

DAVID M.S. DEWHIRST
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/s/ Kathleen L. Smithgall

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kathleen Lynn Smithgall, hereby certify that I have served true and accurate copies of the foregoing Answer/Brief - Answer to the following on 12-14-2021:

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Electronically signed by Buffy Ekola on behalf of Kathleen Lynn Smithgall
Dated: 12-14-2021