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15
16 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
17 COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

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19 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF
20 CALIFORNIA,
21 Plaintiff,
22 v.
23 HEARTBEAT INTERNATIONAL, INC., and
24 REALOPTIONS, INC.,
25 Defendants.

Case No.: 23CV044940

**DECLARATION OF ELIZABETH
BARRETT IN SUPPORT OF
DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

1 I, Elizabeth Barrett, declare and state as follows:

2 1. I received Abortion Pill Reversal treatment at a pregnancy help clinic in California
3 in 2023. I am submitting this declaration in support of Heartbeat International’s and RealOptions’
4 motion for summary judgment or, alternatively, summary adjudication. I am over 18 years of age
5 and competent to submit this testimony. All of the matters discussed below are based on my own
6 personal knowledge and experience.

7 2. Life has not been easy in the decade since I dropped out of Butte College in Chico. I
8 worked as a bartender and eventually secured a head cashier job at Lowe’s in 2022, but money was
9 always tight even as Medi-Cal public health insurance helped defray some expenses I incurred
10 keeping myself afloat. Many weeks, I was just scrapping by. Things looked like they’d only get
11 more dire as summer 2023 approached, and my romantic relationship with my boyfriend began to
12 fray so badly that I eventually asked him to move out of the home we shared.

13 3. Then, in what hit me like a thunderclap, I found out in June 2023 I was pregnant
14 with my boyfriend’s baby. I panicked at the thought of spending eighteen years in family court
15 battling with a person I did not want to coparent with and struggled to imagine where I would be
16 able to find funds to cover childcare costs. Because I was torn about whether abortion offered me
17 the best way out, I scheduled an appointment at my local Planned Parenthood clinic to explore my
18 options. I was a huge supporter and donor to Planned Parenthood at the time, and I thought for sure
19 that staff at the clinic would help me out.

20 4. Life interrupted my plans several times, so I wasn’t able to get into the Planned
21 Parenthood clinic until I was about eight weeks pregnant. I shared my ambivalence with the clinic
22 staff about whether to get an abortion—on the one hand, I was scared, but on the other hand I
23 wanted my baby. I hoped to be offered options, but the only option that the staff provided was to
24 have an abortion that day or to try to schedule one for later. And even that, as presented to me then,
25 was more of a false choice: staff hemmed about when I’d be able to get back in for an abortion if I
26 didn’t get it done that day because of the clinic’s packed abortion schedule. With that scheduling
27 pressure, and overwhelmed by misgivings about getting the abortion—*what if I wanted to proceed*
28 *but couldn’t later?*—I took the first of two pills for a chemical abortion.

1 5. I hadn't yet left the clinic when I got a text message from my boyfriend saying he
2 thought we should keep the baby and raise him or her together. Knowing I really wanted to do that
3 too and regretting that I'd succumbed to others' pressure to proceed with the abortion, I
4 immediately went to the clinic bathroom and tried to throw up the first pill. But I couldn't. Terrified
5 to mention to the Planned Parenthood clinic staff that I'd changed my mind and wanting the
6 abortion to stop, I raced home and met my boyfriend there to strategize about next steps.

7 6. We started to search frantically online for *anything* we could do to try to save our
8 baby. I knew just not taking the second chemical abortion pill and hoping for the best would
9 probably not work. I'd initially tried doing exactly that when I'd gotten a chemical abortion in the
10 past, and it hadn't worked. But I was desperate, borderline hysterical, and willing to try just about
11 anything—the Internet can recommend all sorts of crazy home remedies—even to the point of
12 doing a handstand to try to force the pill out.

13 7. On either the third or fourth page of Google results, my boyfriend and I located
14 information about abortion pill reversal. I had never heard of it, but the website had a phone number
15 to call if we wanted to discuss whether it might still be possible to save my baby's life. So I called it.

16 8. A nurse answered the phone and asked me medical questions—how long it had been
17 since I took the first pill, whether I'd experienced any bleeding, etc. She then told me that a doctor
18 would call me back within an hour. I had zero faith one would. But after about fifteen minutes that
19 felt like an eternity, a female doctor from a clinic near me actually did call me back. She was sweet
20 and professional, asked me more medical questions, and then scheduled me to come in right away
21 for an appointment at the clinic where she worked.

22 9. That call and the subsequent appointment changed the trajectory of my pregnancy
23 and my whole life. I began taking supplemental progesterone and continued on that regimen until
24 the end of my first trimester, after the immediate emergency had passed. Many doctors, in my
25 experience, do next to nothing to make sure patients are still doing okay after treatment is
26 complete. But not the clinic where I'd received APR, which followed up with me repeatedly until
27 the day I delivered my baby daughter to ask how I was doing, staying attentive to both my
28 emotional and practical needs.

1 10. Amazingly, the clinic’s support for me didn’t even stop at birth. I remember, for
2 instance, how the clinic called me when I was at the hospital after giving birth to ask me if I was
3 well and had everything I needed. I didn’t have a car seat—one of those things you don’t even
4 think about not having until you need it. I mentioned the fact to a nurse at the clinic, and the clinic
5 immediately sent a car seat to the hospital for me. For free! And the clinic staff treated me like
6 family for a long time after I was discharged from the hospital, bringing food and gifts to my home,
7 providing diapers, and offering to be a resource for whatever my boyfriend and I needed.

8 11. Forever grateful to the clinic for the gift of my baby’s life and wanting to give back,
9 I have volunteered as a peer counselor at the clinic for women who have experienced pregnancy
10 loss or feel uncertain about continuing a pregnancy. I know that a pregnant or post-abortive mother
11 who feels lonely or sad sometimes just needs someone to talk to who understands, has been there,
12 and honestly cares. I also try to spread word about APR on social media, especially via Facebook
13 Reels, to connect with women who are scared and searching online (like I did) for help and a
14 reproductive choice other than abortion.

15 12. Today I am an ecstatic mom of a vivacious little girl born without any birth defects or
16 complications in January 2024. She is now the center of my world but almost certainly would not be
17 here if it were not for the APR healthcare I received back in 2023. As a reminder to myself of the
18 precipice I was on and the peace and joy APR brought into my life, I keep an APR flyer from the
19 clinic in my daughter’s keepsake box. When she grows up, I hope to tell her personally about my
20 struggles and the dangers surrounding the beginning of her life. But if I am gone, I want her to be
21 able to see the flyer and know how precious she is in my eyes and what others and I did to save her.

22 13. I was lucky and feel I’m living in a fairy tale: tragedy and fear transforming in one
23 moment into joy and bright horizons for the future. I hope other women in California will continue
24 to be able to hear about APR. It is not a miracle that always works, but it is science and medicine
25 that often does. And even one baby saved—or desperate mom helped—is of inestimable value.

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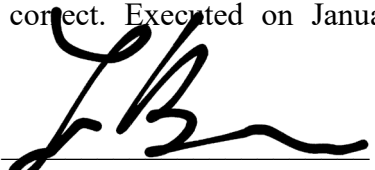
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Figure 1: Baby Barrett

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on January 17, 2026, in Chico, California.


Elizabeth Barrett