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## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF OREGON PORTLAND DIVISION

PARENTS FOR PRIVACY; KRIS GOLLY and JON GOLLY, individually [and as guardians ad litem for A.G.]; LINDSAY GOLLY; NICOLE LILLIE; MELISSA GREGORY, individually and as guardian ad litem for T.F.; and PARENTS RIGHTS IN EDUCATION, an Oregon nonprofit corporation,

Case No. 3:17-cv-01813-HZ

DECLARATION OF COLLEEN YEAGER IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INTERVENE

Plaintiffs,

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DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2; OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; GOVERNOR KATE BROWN, in her official capacity as the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; BETSY DEVOS, in her official capacity as United States Secretary of Education as successor to JOHN B. KING, JR.; UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; JEFF SESSIONS, in his official capacity as United States Attorney General, as successor to LORETTA F. LYNCH,

## Defendants.

- I, Colleen Yeager, declare as follows:
- 1. I am a resident of Portland, Oregon.
- 2. I submit this declaration in support of Basic Rights Oregon ("BRO")'s motion to intervene, in order to explain my interest in this litigation as a BRO supporter, volunteer, and donor.
- 3. My family and I have been supporters of BRO since 2013. We have made monthly contributions to BRO since 2016 to support the work they do on behalf of LGBTQ Oregonians.
- 4. Our family has also participated in phone banking and major gifts fundraising for BRO, lobbied our state legislature for transgender anti-discrimination protections, and marched in the Pride Parade with BRO.
- 5. In 2017, we joined BRO's Fierce Family Group, which seeks to engage family members in creating safe and affirming communities for transgender individuals in every corner of Oregon.
  - 6. I am the mother and legal guardian to a seven-year-old son.
- 7. My son is transgender. While he was assigned the sex female at birth, he knew from a very young age that he was a boy. He started emphatically verbalizing his gender to us around
- PAGE 2 DECLARATION OF COLLEEN YEAGER IN SUPPORT OF BASIC RIGHTS OREGON'S MOTION TO INTERVENE

age five, though the signs were there for at least two years prior, including gender expressions

consistent with that of being a boy, but sadly, also depression, aggression, and self-harm.

8. My son is in second grade in the Portland Public Schools system. His school has

been amazing, and has recognized him as the boy he is since day one, including allowing him to

use the boys' restrooms like the rest of the boys in his class. I cannot imagine how difficult our

lives, and most importantly, my son's life, would be if they had not been supportive.

9. The support from my son's teachers and administrators has been instrumental in

allowing him to be himself at school, and to focus on his learning, which had suffered dramatically

during his first year of school due to his depression. His Kindergarten teacher supported him in

coming out to his classmates, who have largely been affirming and supportive in response.

10. Transgender kids are some of the most vulnerable children there are. In addition to

support from their families, support from their school is everything. They spend five days a week,

seven hours a day in that community, and need to feel human.

11. When districts do not have inclusive policies, it sends a strong message to students'

peers that they are being singled out as different. It is critical that transgender students like my son

are able to participate in school as the gender they are, like the rest of their peers.

12. I make this declaration from my own knowledge of the facts and circumstances set

forth above. If necessary, I could and would testify to these facts and circumstances.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true

and correct.

DATED: February 20, 2018

Colleen Yeager

DECLARATION OF COLLEEN YEAGER IN SUPPORT OF BASIC RIGHTS PAGE 3 -OREGON'S MOTION TO INTERVENE