

1 Jared Keenan (027068)
2 Victoria Lopez (330042)
3 American Civil Liberties Union
4 Foundation of Arizona
5 3707 North 7th Street, Suite 235
6 Phoenix, Arizona 85014
7 Telephone: (602) 650-1854
8 jkeenan@acluaz.org
9 vlopez@acluaz.org
10 *Counsel for Plaintiffs*

11 Jen Samantha D. Rasay, *pro hac vice*
12 Center For Reproductive Rights
13 1634 Eye Street, NW, Suite 600
14 Washington, DC 20006
15 Telephone: (202) 628-0286
16 jrasay@reprorights.org
17 *Counsel for Paul A. Isaacson, M.D.,*
18 *National Council of Jewish Women*
19 *(Arizona Section), Inc., and Arizona*
20 *National Organization for Women*

21 COUNSEL CONTINUED
22 ON NEXT PAGE

23 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
24 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

25 Paul A. Isaacson, M.D., on behalf of
26 himself and his patients, et al.,
27 Plaintiffs,

28 v.

Mark Brnovich, Attorney General of
Arizona, in his official capacity; et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 2:21-CV-1417-DLR

**PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF
THEIR RENEWED MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT**

1 Jessica Leah Sklarsky, *pro hac vice*

2 Gail Deady, *pro hac vice*

3 Catherine Coquillet, *pro hac vice*

4 Center For Reproductive Rights

5 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor

6 New York, NY 10038

7 Telephone: (917) 637-3600

8 jsklarsky@reprorights.org

9 gdeady@reprorights.org

10 ccoquillet@reprorights.org

11 *Counsel for Paul A. Isaacson, M.D.,*

12 *National Council of Jewish Women*

13 *(Arizona Section), Inc., and Arizona*

14 *National Organization for Women*

15 Alexa Kolbi-Molinas, *pro hac vice*

16 Rebecca Chan, *pro hac vice*

17 Ryan Mendías, *pro hac vice*

18 American Civil Liberties Union

19 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor

20 New York, NY 10004

21 Telephone: (212) 549-2633

22 akolbi-molinas@aclu.org

23 rebeccac@aclu.org

24 rmendias@aclu.org

25 *Counsel for Eric M. Reuss, M.D., M.P.H.,*

26 *and Arizona Medical Association*

27 Beth Wilkinson, *pro hac vice*

28 Anastasia Pastan, *pro hac vice*

Wilkinson Stekloff LLP

2001 M Street, NW

10th Floor

Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 847-4000

bwilkinson@wilkinsonstekloff.com

apastan@wilkinsonstekloff.com

Counsel for Paul A. Isaacson, M.D.,

National Council of Jewish Women

(Arizona Section), Inc., and Arizona

National Organization for Women

1 Ralia Polechronis, *pro hac vice*
2 Wilkinson Stekloff LLP
3 130 West 42nd Street
4 24th Floor
5 New York, NY 10036
6 Telephone: (212) 294-9410
7 rpolechronis@wilkinsonstekloff.com
8 *Counsel for Paul A. Isaacson, M.D.,*
9 *National Council of Jewish Women*
10 *(Arizona Section), Inc., and Arizona*
11 *National Organization for Women*
12
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INTRODUCTION

1
2 Defendants offer this Court no reason to alter its prior well-supported and well-
3 reasoned opinion preliminarily enjoining the Reason Scheme. Rather than contend with
4 the Reason Scheme’s pervasive vagueness, Defendants attempt to change the subject
5 through their misinterpretation of the significance of the Supreme Court’s grant, vacate,
6 and remand order (“GVR Order”), *Brnovich v. Isaacson*, 142 S. Ct. 2893 (2022), and
7 their misguided insistence that Plaintiffs’ claims are unripe and must meet a standard for
8 facial relief that neither the Supreme Court nor the Ninth Circuit commands in these
9 circumstances. But Defendants’ strained efforts to avoid discussion of the Reason
10 Scheme’s provisions and the myriad “real and concrete” circumstances presented by
11 Plaintiffs, merely seek to hide what is plain: the Reason Scheme is unconstitutionally and
12 indefensibly vague and perpetuates tremendous harms on Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs’ members
13 and patients, and others throughout Arizona.

ARGUMENT

I. Defendants Misrepresent the Significance of the Supreme Court’s Grant, Vacate, and Remand Order

14
15
16 The GVR Order in this case has no determinative effect on Plaintiffs’ claim that
17 the Reason Scheme is unconstitutionally vague. Defendants’ erroneous assertion that the
18 Supreme Court “necessarily disagreed with this Court’s conclusion that Plaintiffs are
19 likely to succeed on their vagueness challenge” to the Reason Scheme, Resp. at 9 (ECF
20 No. 127), is an overreaching interpretation that is unsupported by the record and
21 precedent.

22 First, the Supreme Court’s GVR Order merely indicates that *Dobbs v. Jackson*
23 *Women’s Health Organization*, 142 S. Ct. 2228 (2022), is “potentially relevant” to some
24 of Plaintiffs’ claims. *See Stutson v. United States*, 516 U.S. 193, 197 (1996) (finding that
25 GVR orders do not represent any conclusion as to whether a new case is determinative,
26 only that it is “potentially relevant”); *see also Lawrence on Behalf of Lawrence v. Chater*,
27 516 U.S. 163, 167 (1996) (A “GVR order . . . assists the court below by flagging a
28

1 particular issue that it does not appear to have fully considered [and] assists this Court by
2 procuring the benefit of the lower court’s insight *before we rule on the merits.*” (emphasis
3 added)). The Supreme Court has consistently noted that GVR orders are not a final
4 determination on the merits and should not be treated as such by lower courts. *See, e.g.,*
5 *Henry v. City of Rock Hill*, 376 U.S. 776, 777 (1964). Accordingly, a litigant may not use
6 a GVR order as precedent or to support its position. *See Tyler v. Cain*, 533 U.S. 656, 666
7 n.6 (2001).

8 Second, when considering the relevance of *Dobbs* to this case, as the GVR Order
9 requires, it is clear that *Dobbs* did not defeat Plaintiffs’ vagueness claim (as opposed to
10 its undue burden claim). Vagueness is an entirely distinct and independent basis upon
11 which to enjoin the Reason Scheme, separate and apart from Plaintiffs’ undue burden
12 claim. *See Nunez by Nunez v. City of San Diego*, 114 F.3d 935, 951 (9th Cir. 1997)
13 (explaining that vagueness and substantive due process are “independent bas[e]s” for
14 concluding a statute is unconstitutional). In fact, there was no vagueness claim before the
15 Court in *Dobbs*, and the *Dobbs* majority opinion said nothing about the vagueness
16 doctrine at all, let alone issued any determinative guidance.

17 Third, Defendants’ contention that Plaintiffs seek a mandatory, rather than
18 prohibitory, injunction because the GVR Order allowed the Reason Scheme to go into
19 effect is incorrect. “A mandatory injunction orders a responsible party to take action,”
20 while a “prohibitory injunction prohibits a party from taking action and preserves the
21 status quo pending a determination of the action on the merits.” *Marlyn Nutraceuticals,*
22 *Inc. v. Mucos Pharma GmbH & Co.*, 571 F.3d 873, 878–79 (9th Cir. 2009) (internal
23 quotation marks omitted). The relevant status quo for a prohibitory injunction is that
24 “between the parties pending a resolution of a case on the merits.” *McCormack v.*
25 *Hiedeman*, 694 F.3d 1004, 1019 (9th Cir. 2012). The “‘status quo’ refers to the legally
26 relevant relationship between the parties before the controversy arose.” *Ariz. Dream Act*
27 *Coal. v. Brewer*, 757 F.3d 1053, 1061 (9th Cir. 2014). Here, Plaintiffs seek to prohibit
28 Defendants from enforcing the Reason Scheme, and the status quo relevant to the current

1 dispute is the regulatory regime governing abortion care *before* the Reason Scheme’s
2 enactment. Indeed, the Reason Scheme is before the Court in exactly the same posture as
3 the Interpretation Policy was earlier this summer when Plaintiffs sought—and
4 successfully obtained—an emergency prohibitory injunction of that law. *See* Emergency
5 Mot. at 17 (ECF No. 107); Prelim. Inj. Order (ECF No. 121) (“Second PI Order”).

6 Accordingly, the GVR Order casts no doubt on this Court’s prior ruling on
7 Plaintiffs’ vagueness claim, nor did it alter the status quo and convert this request into
8 one for a mandatory injunction.

9 **II. Plaintiffs’ Vagueness Challenge is Ripe**

10 Under Ninth Circuit precedent, to establish the ripeness of their vagueness claim
11 Plaintiffs must provide “concrete factual situation[s].” *Alaska Right to Life Pol. Action*
12 *Comm. v. Feldman*, 504 F.3d 840, 849 (9th Cir. 2007). Plaintiffs have more than met this
13 standard.

14 Plaintiffs have submitted undisputed evidence, *see* Pls.’ Renewed Mot. at 6–8
15 (ECF No. 125) (“Pls.’ Mot.”)—already credited by this Court—that detail “concrete
16 factual situation[s]” and “many realistic scenarios,” *see* Prelim. Inj. Order at 11–15 (ECF
17 No. 52) (“First PI Order”), in which they do not know how to conform their behavior to
18 the law and reasonably fear arbitrary prosecution. In stark contrast, Defendants pretend
19 this evidence does not exist. *See* Resp. at 19–20 (ECF No. 46) (“First Resp.”); Resp. at
20 11.

21 Moreover, as the Court previously held when enjoining the Interpretation Policy,
22 Defendants’ “wait-and-see approach,” *see* Resp. at 11, “is a mismatch in a case about
23 vagueness, where the injury stems from the *uncertainty* surrounding how the law might
24 apply.” Second PI Order at 7–8; *see also Dream Defs. v. DeSantis*, 559 F. Supp. 3d 1238,
25 1265 (N.D. Fla. 2021) (whether a statute “is facially vague or overbroad requires no
26 factual development; rather, it is a purely legal question and is, therefore, presumptively
27 ripe for judicial review” (citing *Club Madonna, Inc. v. City of Miami Beach*, 924 F.3d
28 1370, 1380 (11th Cir. 2019)); *L.A. Cnty. Bar Ass’n v. Eu*, 979 F.2d 697, 704 (9th Cir.

1 1992) (“Further factual development will not assist our consideration of” a facial
2 challenge where the “relevant facts are clear”).

3 Furthermore, enjoining the Reason Scheme in no way “deprive[s] the federal
4 courts of the ability to ‘consider any limiting construction that a state court or
5 enforcement agency has proffered.’” Resp. at 10. But, so far, Defendants—those charged
6 with enforcing the law—have failed to offer this Court a *reasonable* limiting
7 construction, *see* First PI Order at 14–16 & n.9; *see also* Resp. at 16 n.11 (urging
8 severance without any explanation regarding what to sever, why severance would be
9 permissible, or how it would remedy the Scheme’s vagueness). *See also Virginia v. Am.*
10 *Booksellers Ass’n, Inc.*, 484 U.S. 383, 397 (1988) (a court may accept a narrowing
11 construction where the statute is “readily susceptible” to it, but may not “rewrite a state
12 law to conform it to constitutional requirements”).

13 In short, Plaintiffs’ vagueness claim against the Reason Scheme is plainly ripe.

14 **III. Salerno’s “No Set of Circumstances” Test Does Not Apply**

15 Defendants do not dispute that *Salerno*’s “no set of circumstances” rule for facial
16 relief does not apply in “exceptional circumstances.” *See* Resp. at 11–12 (citing *United*
17 *States v. Salerno*, 481 U.S. 739, 745 (1987)). As this Court previously explained, the
18 Ninth Circuit has held such “exceptional circumstances” exist where, as here, “a statute is
19 ‘plagued by such indeterminacy that [it] might be vague even as applied to the
20 challengers.’” First PI Order at 10 (citing *Kashem v. Barr*, 941 F.3d 358, 377 (2019)); *see*
21 *also* Pls.’ Mot. at 6–8. To evade the Court’s prior holding, Defendants contend the Court
22 only found “‘exceptional circumstances’ because Plaintiffs also raised an ‘intertwined’
23 undue burden claim,” thereby linking their vagueness and substantive due process
24 arguments. Resp. at 12. This is incorrect. Rather, as the Court clearly explained, “the
25 Criminal Liability, Affidavit, and Reporting Provisions are so plagued” by indeterminacy
26 that they alone triggered the exception to *Salerno*. First PI Order at 10; *see also id.*
27 (noting, in a separate paragraph, that the then-applicable undue burden analysis
28 constituted an *additional* “exceptional circumstance”). As Plaintiffs explained in their

1 opening brief, *see* Pls.’ Mot. at 6–8, and as Defendants do not even attempt to refute, *see*
2 *infra* Section IV, the Reason Scheme is vague in innumerable scenarios as applied to
3 Plaintiffs.

4 Additionally, Defendants concede that vague laws that chill constitutionally
5 protected speech are also exempt from the “no set of circumstances” test. *See* Resp. at
6 12–13; *see also Kashem*, 941 F.3d at 375 n.9 (requirements governing facial challenges
7 “are relaxed in the First Amendment context”). Such constitutionally protected speech is
8 implicated here. “An integral component of the practice of medicine is the
9 communication between a doctor and a patient.” *Conant v. Walters*, 309 F.3d 629, 636
10 (9th Cir. 2002). Courts have recognized that “[p]hysicians must be able to speak frankly
11 and openly to patients,” *id.*, because “[h]ealth-related information is more important than
12 most topics.” *Wollschlaeger v. Gov. of Fla.*, 848 F.3d 1293, 1328 (11th Cir. 2017) (en
13 banc) (W. Pryor, J., concurring). Consequently, the “doctor-patient relationship provides
14 more justification for free speech, not less.” *Id.*

15 Defendants’ argument that the Reason Scheme *only* “regulate[s] conduct—the
16 performance of discriminatory abortions—not speech” is beside the point. Resp. at 12. As
17 Plaintiffs have explained, the Scheme’s penalties and vague provisions work together to
18 inhibit constitutionally protected speech that occurs entirely apart from the abortion
19 procedure and state-mandated informed consent process, “regardless of whether a
20 medical procedure is ever sought, offered, or performed.” *Nat’l Inst. of Fam. & Life*
21 *Advocs. v. Becerra*, 138 S. Ct. 2361, 2373 (2018); *see also* Pls.’ Mot. at 9–10; First PI
22 Order at 16 (referencing both the Scheme’s requirement to report “known” violations and
23 Arizona’s accomplice and facilitation statutes). For example, due to the Scheme’s vague
24 and inconsistent terms, and fear of criminal liability under the statute, even physicians
25 who do not provide abortions are afraid to talk to their patients about genetic testing and
26 diagnoses. *See, e.g.*, Supplemental Declaration of Dr. Katherine B. Glaser, ECF No. 125-
27 2 (“Suppl. Glaser Decl.”) ¶ 6 (describing Arizona physicians “who have expressed
28 significant concerns about how honest they can be with their patients when discussing

1 pregnancy options in the context of fetal anomalies”). Similarly, the Scheme inhibits
2 conversations between physicians, to the detriment of patient care. *See, e.g.*,
3 Supplemental Declaration of Dr. Paul A. Isaacson, ECF No. 125-2 (“Suppl. Isaacson
4 Decl.”) ¶¶ 5–6 (describing how the Scheme has forced Dr. Isaacson to no longer accept
5 any referrals from maternal-fetal medicine specialists or genetic counselors regardless of
6 the particular condition or the role that the diagnosis may have played in the patient’s
7 decision-making). The Reason Scheme’s vagueness impinges on critical physician-
8 patient and physician-physician communications in situations far beyond the provision of
9 abortion care.

10 Thus, Plaintiffs are not required to satisfy *Salerno*’s “no set of circumstances” test
11 both because, as the Court previously found, the Reason Scheme is “so plagued” by
12 indeterminacy that it is vague even as applied to Plaintiffs, First PI Order at 10, and,
13 separately, because it “abut[s] upon sensitive areas of basic First Amendment freedoms,”
14 *Grayned v. City of Rockford*, 408 U.S. 104, 109 (1972).

15 **IV. Defendants Offer No Defense for the Reason Scheme’s Vague Terms**

16 When Defendants’ efforts to evade the Reason Scheme’s vague terms are
17 appropriately cast aside, it is clear the Reason Scheme is unconstitutionally vague on its
18 face. As already discussed, *supra* Section III, the fact that the Reason Scheme *may* be
19 clear in one instance (which is all Defendants offer), Resp. at 13, is simply not sufficient
20 to defeat facial relief. As the Supreme Court made clear in *Johnson v. United States*, “[the
21 Court’s] *holdings* squarely contradict the theory that a vague provision is constitutional
22 merely because there is some conduct that clearly falls within the provision’s grasp.” 576
23 U.S. 591, 602 (2015). Defendants’ citations to a series of cases from the 1970s
24 articulating a *general* standard for facial relief, Resp. at 14—that cannot be assigned the
25 meaning ascribed by Defendants in light of *Johnson*—do nothing to move the needle.

26 Further, Defendants’ assertion that the Reason Scheme’s application is “obvious”
27 in “almost all cases” because only 191 individuals in 2019 (out of approximately 13,000
28 seeking abortion care in Arizona) disclosed on state-mandated forms that they sought

1 termination due to “fetal health/medical considerations” or “genetic risk/fetal
2 abnormality,” Resp. at 14, is a red herring.

3 To start, this argument skirts the reality that even in these instances of self-
4 disclosure, the Reason Scheme’s application is anything but clear. First PI Order at 13–
5 15; Pls.’ Mot. at 12–13. Under the Scheme, providers must ask their patients—on state-
6 mandated forms—their patient’s “reason for the abortion.” A.R.S. § 36-2161(12).
7 Patients then may check a box that indicates the abortion is sought “due to fetal health
8 considerations, including being diagnosed with at least one of the following: (i) A lethal
9 anomaly. (ii) A central nervous system anomaly. (iii) Other.” A.R.S. § 36-2161(12)(c).
10 Should patients check this box, whether the Reason Scheme prohibits care is still unclear.
11 Does the condition constitute a “genetic abnormality” under the Scheme? Must the “fetal
12 health consideration” be the “sole reason” for the patient seeking care? Or, are the
13 Scheme’s prohibitions triggered if the “fetal health consideration” played *any* role in the
14 patient’s decision-making? Need the condition be a but-for cause? A proximate cause?
15 Regardless, under any of these interpretations, providers are still left to decipher the
16 subjective motivations of their patients. Furthermore, as this Court already correctly
17 recognized, the Reason Scheme implicates care far beyond those who make these
18 disclosures. First PI Order at 13–14.

19 In the end, Defendants offer no clarification of the Reason Scheme’s vague terms.
20 Nowhere do Defendants clarify the Scheme’s “squishy” definition of “genetic
21 abnormality.” First PI Order at 14. Instead—without any support or rationale from the
22 statutory text or otherwise¹—Defendants assert that where there is “considerable
23

24 ¹ Notably, in contrast to the Reason Scheme’s definition of “medical emergency,” the
25 definition of “lethal fetal condition” is not defined in terms of a physician’s “good faith”
26 medical judgment. *Compare* A.R.S. § 36-2158 (defining a “lethal fetal condition” as one
27 “that is diagnosed before birth and that will result, with reasonable certainty, in the death
28 of the unborn child within three months after birth), *with id.* § 36-2151 (defining
“medical emergency” as “a condition that, *on the basis of the physician’s good faith
clinical judgment*, so complicates the medical condition of the pregnant woman . . .”
(emphasis added)).

1 uncertainty” regarding “whether a fetal condition exists, has a genetic cause, or will result
2 in death within three months after birth,” the Scheme simply does not apply. Resp. at 15
3 (quoting First PI Order at 12, 14).

4 Likewise, rather than address the Reason Scheme’s multiple motivation standards,
5 Defendants repeatedly argue that the Reason Scheme only prohibits abortion when a
6 “genetic abnormality” is the “sole” reason the patient seeks care. *See* Resp. at 15 (“The
7 [Reason Scheme does] not prohibit an abortion when multiple reasons are expressed.”);
8 *id.* at 16 (“the [Reason Scheme applies] only when the provider in fact knows that the
9 abortion is being sought solely because of a genetic abnormality”). But this ignores the
10 Reason Scheme’s plain language: as the Court has appropriately recognized, “the word
11 solely does not appear” in several of the Reason Scheme’s provisions, and reading it into
12 those provisions is unreasonable. First PI Order at 15 & n.9.

13 Nor do Defendants anywhere grapple with the inherent subjectivity of assessing
14 patients’ motivation for seeking abortion care, already recognized by this Court. First PI
15 Order at 14. Instead, Defendants attempt to obfuscate the Scheme’s subjectivity by
16 pretending the Reason Scheme only imposes liability when a patient “directly informs her
17 provider that a fetal genetic abnormality is her sole motive.” First PI Order at 15; Resp. at
18 13–16. But, again, as the Court already found, the Reason Scheme’s language does not
19 support such a narrow reading both because 1) the Scheme seemingly threatens liability
20 even where a “genetic abnormality” is not the “sole” reason, *see supra*; and 2) a provider
21 may be deemed to “know” a patient’s reason absent such disclosure. First PI Order at 15.
22 While theoretically such a narrow law could provide an objective, “true-or-false
23 determination,” to guide its application, Resp. at 16 (quoting *United States v. Williams*,
24 553 U.S. 285, 306 (2008)), that is not the law before this Court. *See* First PI Order at 15
25 (holding that “[i]f Arizona wanted liability to attach only when the patient directly
26 informs her provider that a fetal genetic abnormality is her sole motive . . . it could and
27 should have written that narrower language into the law”).
28

1 Rather, as the Court already found, under the Scheme’s actual language, providers
2 must parse “the subjective motivations of another individual, even if not directly
3 expressed” to determine whether the contemplated care is prohibited. First PI Order at 14.
4 This is particularly problematic here because “the decision to terminate a pregnancy is a
5 complex one, and often is motivated by a variety of considerations, some of which are
6 inextricably intertwined with the detection of a fetal genetic abnormality.” *Id.* Imposing
7 severe criminal and civil liability based on such a “subjective judgment”—very much
8 akin to “whether conduct is ‘annoying’ or ‘indecent’”—is plainly unconstitutional.
9 *Williams*, 553 U.S. at 306.

10 This is precisely why the Scheme’s infirmities cannot be resolved “by the
11 requirement of proof beyond a reasonable doubt,” Resp. at 16 (quoting *Williams*, 553
12 U.S. at 305–06): the difficulty here stems from “the indeterminacy of precisely what . . .
13 fact” must be proved. *Williams*, 553 U.S. at 306. It is also why the Scheme’s knowledge
14 requirement does not alleviate vagueness concerns, as Defendants contend. Resp. at 16.
15 Knowledge requirements do not (and cannot) alleviate vagueness concerns when, as here,
16 they modify inherently vague descriptions of what activity is proscribed. *See Colautti v.*
17 *Franklin*, 439 U.S. 379, 395–97 & n.13 (1979), *abrogated on other grounds by Dobbs v.*
18 *Jackson Women’s Health Org.*, 142 S. Ct. 2228 (2022) (quoting *Screws v. United States*,
19 325 U.S. 91, 101–02 (1945) (plurality opinion)); *see also R.I. Med. Soc’y v. Whitehouse*,
20 66 F. Supp. 2d 288, 310–12 (D.R.I. 1999) (scienter requirement did not cure vagueness
21 where it modified vague “legal standard”), *aff’d*, 239 F.3d 104 (1st Cir. 2001).

22 In short, Defendants’ Response offers the Court no reason to doubt its prior
23 holding and only confirms that the Reason Scheme is likely facially unconstitutionally
24 vague.

25 **V. Plaintiffs Meet All Other Factors for Preliminary Relief**

26 As articulated *supra* Sections II-IV, and contrary to Defendants’ assertions, Resp.
27 at 17, Plaintiffs are likely to establish that they are currently suffering constitutional
28 injury that is *per se* irreparable harm. *Melendres v. Arpaio*, 695 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir.

1 2012). Moreover, Defendants do not even attempt to challenge Plaintiffs’ other sources of
2 irreparable harm, which include the chilling of constitutionally protected speech and the
3 denial of time-sensitive abortion care, *see* Pls.’ Mot. at 15–17.

4 At the same time, Defendants fail to show that Arizona will suffer any irreparable
5 harm if the Reason Scheme is preliminarily enjoined. A state does not automatically face
6 irreparable injury when enjoined from enforcing an unconstitutional law, because seeking
7 to enforce an unconstitutional law is not a valid exercise of state power. *See, e.g., Ex*
8 *parte Young*, 209 U.S. 123, 159–60 (1908). Furthermore, Arizona offers no evidence that
9 “the safety and the health of the people” will be threatened, Resp. at 17, if the status quo
10 is preserved pending litigation on the merits. As the Court already concluded, “the
11 evidence raises doubt about whether” the “coercive health care practices” cited by
12 Defendants, *see* Resp. at 3–5, “are [a] problem in Arizona.” First PI Order at 27.
13 Moreover, Arizona remains free to advance its stated anti-discrimination interests in
14 myriad other *constitutional* ways while the litigation is pending. *See* First PI Order at 27;
15 *see also Nat’l Inst. of Fam. & Life Advocs.*, 138 S. Ct. at 2376 (noting that State was free
16 to inform women of its agenda “with a public-information campaign”). And, indeed,
17 contrary to Defendants’ claim, it is “always in the public interest to prevent the violation
18 of a party’s constitutional rights.” *Melendres*, 695 F.3d at 1002. Accordingly, the balance
19 of hardships and public interest strongly favor Plaintiffs.

20 CONCLUSION

21 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court issue a
22 preliminary injunction against the Reason Scheme and waive the bond requirement under
23 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(c).

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Dated: September 23, 2022

By: /s/ Jessica Leah Sklarsky

Jessica Leah Sklarsky, *pro hac vice*
Gail Deady, *pro hac vice*
Catherine Coquillette, *pro hac vice*
Center For Reproductive Rights
199 Water Street, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10038
Telephone: (917) 637-3600
jsklarsky@reprorights.org
gdeady@reprorights.org
ccoquillette@reprorights.org

Jen Samantha D. Rasay, *pro hac vice*
Center For Reproductive Rights
1634 Eye Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 628-0286
jrasay@reprorights.org

*Counsel for Paul A. Isaacson, M.D.,
National Council of Jewish Women
(Arizona Section), Inc., and Arizona
National Organization for Women*

Jared Keenan (027068)
Victoria Lopez (330042)
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation
of Arizona
3707 North 7th Street, Suite 235
Phoenix, AZ 85014
Telephone (602) 650-1854
jkeenana@acluaz.org
vlopez@acluaz.org

Counsel for Plaintiffs

COUNSEL CONTINUED
ON NEXT PAGE

1 Alexa Kolbi-Molinas, *pro hac vice*
2 Rebecca Chan, *pro hac vice*
3 Ryan Mendías, *pro hac vice*
4 American Civil Liberties Union
5 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
6 New York, NY 10004
7 Telephone: (212) 549-2633
8 akolbi-molinas@aclu.org
9 rebeccac@aclu.org
10 rmendias@aclu.org
11 *Counsel for Eric M. Reuss M.D., M.P.H.,*
12 *and Arizona Medical Association*

13
14 Beth Wilkinson, *pro hac vice*
15 Anastasia Pastan, *pro hac vice*
16 Wilkinson Stekloff LLP
17 2001 M Street, NW
18 10th Floor
19 Washington, DC 20036
20 Telephone: (202) 847-4000
21 bwilkinson@wilkinsonstekloff.com
22 apastan@wilkinsonstekloff.com
23 *Counsel for Paul A. Isaacson, M.D.,*
24 *National Council of Jewish Women*
25 *(Arizona Section), Inc., and Arizona*
26 *National Organization for Women*

27
28 Ralia Polechronis, *pro hac vice*
Wilkinson Stekloff LLP
130 West 42nd Street
24th Floor
New York, NY 10036
Telephone: (212) 294-9410
rpolechronis@wilkinsonstekloff.com
Counsel for Paul A. Isaacson, M.D.,
National Council of Jewish Women
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National Organization for Women

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 23, 2022, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk’s Office using the CM/ECF System for filing. All counsel of record are registrants and are therefore served via this filing and transmittal.

/s/ Jessica Leah Sklarsky