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**ELECTRONICALLY FILED**  
Superior Court of California,  
County of Tulare  
**02/08/2024**  
By: Vanessa Minguela,  
Deputy Clerk

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9 **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 **COUNTY OF TULARE**

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12 LUCI GILLESPIE and ILEANA  
13 SUASTEGUI, on behalf of themselves and all  
others similarly situated,

14 Plaintiffs,

15 v.

16  
17 PLUM HEALTHCARE GROUP, LLC, a  
California limited liability company; and  
18 DOES 1-100, inclusive,

19 Defendants.

Case No. VCU285376

**DECLARATION OF LUCI GILLESPIE IN  
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION  
FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF  
CLASS AND PAGA ACTION  
SETTLEMENT**

Judge: Hon. Bret Hillman  
Dept.: 7

Complaint Filed: December 17, 2020  
Trial Date: None Set

1 **DECLARATION OF LUCI GILLESPIE**

2 I, Luci Gillespie, declare as follows:

- 3 1. I am a named plaintiff and seek to represent the putative Class in the above-captioned action  
4 (“Action”). I am over the age of 18. The following statements are based on my personal  
5 knowledge. If called upon to testify as to the matters stated herein, I could and would do so  
6 competently.
- 7 2. I submit this Declaration in Support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class  
8 and PAGA Action Settlement in the Action against Defendants Plum Healthcare Group, LLC;  
9 Flax Holdings, LLC d/b/a River Valley Care Center; Gladiolus Holdings, LLC d/b/a The Pines  
10 at Placerville Healthcare Center; Jujube Holdings, LLC d/b/a Sunnyvale Post-Acute Center;  
11 Douglas Fir Holdings, LLC d/b/a Huntington Valley Healthcare Center; Olive Holdings, LLC  
12 d/b/a Aviara Healthcare Center; and Rosebud Holdings, LLC d/b/a Western Slope Health  
13 Center (collectively “Defendants”).
- 14 3. I was employed by Defendants as a Nursing Assistant from approximately April 2020 to June  
15 2020 at River Valley Care Center in Live Oak, California.
- 16 4. During my employment with Defendants, I experienced issues as set forth in the Complaints  
17 in these Actions.
- 18 5. I retained Schneider Wallace Cottrell Konecky LLP (“SWCK”) and Lawyers for Justice  
19 (“LFJ”) to represent me in this Action.
- 20 6. During this litigation, I have contributed numerous hours of my own time to the litigation of  
21 these claims and been in constant communication with my attorneys to keep apprised of the  
22 status of the litigation and answer questions as needed. For example, prior to filing the  
23 Complaint in this Action, I had multiple telephonic interviews with my attorneys about my  
24 work experiences, possible claims, and my duties as a named plaintiff and Class representative  
25 in this litigation. I understand that these duties include participating actively in the litigation,  
26 reviewing significant events in the litigation, keeping abreast of the status and progress of the  
27 litigation, and considering the interests of the Class and putting those interests ahead of my  
28 own. I knew that there was no guarantee that we would be successful in this case, and that

1 there was a significant chance of protracted litigation. I realized that my name would be on a  
2 Class Action. I also understood that I may be required to spend a significant amount of time  
3 on the discovery process.

4 7. I have been participating in this litigation since 2020, for well over three years. I have served  
5 as the named plaintiff in this case since it was filed, as well as a second case in Alameda  
6 Superior Court, and even a third case in Sutter County Superior Court. I was also the claimant  
7 in an arbitration proceeding against Plum Healthcare Group, LLC, but I understand that it was  
8 withdrawn because the employer failed to pay required arbitration fees and the case was  
9 remanded to this Court. The Settlement resolves all of these matters. Accordingly, I have made  
10 a significant contribution to this litigation and making the Settlement a reality for the Class  
11 Members.

12 8. Before and during the two mediations in this Action, I was available to answer questions and  
13 strategize with my attorneys. I spent several hours on the phone with my attorney, Scott  
14 Gordon, to go over various factual details and the legal history of the cases. I remained on-call  
15 during the mediations and stayed updated regarding their progress. Once we reached a  
16 settlement, I carefully reviewed the material terms, discussed it with my attorneys, and signed  
17 the Agreement on December 11, 2023.

18 9. Throughout this litigation, I have been in constant communication with my attorneys to keep  
19 apprised of the status of the litigation and to answer questions as needed to pursue this case. I  
20 have kept up to date on the status at every phase.

21 10. In sum, I worked with my attorneys to prepare the Complaint, provided documents and  
22 information regarding my experience working for Defendants, stayed up to date on the  
23 mediation process and settlement decisions, and otherwise remained in constant contact with  
24 my attorneys.

25 11. To make this proposed Settlement a reality, I agreed to a general release. The general release  
26 encompasses all claims that I may have arising out of my employment with Defendants. In  
27 contrast, I understand that the release for putative Class members is limited to the facts and  
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claims alleged in the Complaints. I agreed to the general release as a condition of Settlement to resolve my claims and the claims of the putative Class members.

12. Aside from the payment I am eligible to receive as a putative Class member and an enhancement payment for serving as the class representative, subject to Court approval, I am not receiving any other benefits from this Settlement.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 01 / 13 / 2024 in Yuba City, California.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Luci Gillespie