

Declaration of Kimberly Paige Bufkin

I, Kimberly Paige Bufkin, declare under penalty of perjury as prescribed in Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 132.001 that the following is true and correct:

1. I currently serve as Chief of Staff to Texas State Representative Ana Hernandez (District 143), whose offices are located in the State Capitol complex. I have served in that position since January 2021.

2. As Chief of Staff, my job responsibilities include, but are not limited to, serving as chief advisor to Representative Hernandez on policy and district objectives; assisting in the development and execution of Representative Hernandez's legislative and district plans and objectives; overseeing action plans and responses to district and constituent needs; planning and coordinating communication for social media, district outreach, and press; supervision of Capitol office and district office staff; management of the office budget and logistics; and other duties as assigned.

3. As a legislative staffer, I receive a monthly paycheck from the State Legislature. I also receive health insurance and retirement benefits through my employment.

4. I understand that, if Governor Abbott's veto is allowed to stand, I may no longer be paid for my work effective September 1, and that I may need to obtain health insurance via COBRA shortly thereafter. I've received no information about whether I will be able to backfill any retirement contributions if my pay is later restored.

5. I currently live and split expenses with my fiancé. If my salary is disrupted, it will be more challenging for us to make ends meet. The possibility that my salary will be disrupted and the need to make plans for that eventuality is very stressful and contributes to substantial anxiety for my fiancé and I. I also worry about my colleagues with children who must be experiencing even more stress.

6. The Governor's veto is already disrupting my ability to plan for the future. I am currently in a criminology and criminal justice master's degree program at Northeastern University, for which I've already completed two semesters. Unless I receive additional certainty about my salary and employment status, I will not be able to pay my tuition on September 1 and may be forced to drop out of the program, potentially wasting my hard work.

7. Similarly, my fiancé and I's shared life plans have been disrupted by the fact that I may soon lose my salary. Among other things, we've questioned whether we can afford to purchase a house—an important goal of ours—and paused moving forward with certain aspects of our upcoming wedding and reception.

8. My state-provided health insurance is also immensely important to me. I require annual medical screenings and tests that will be disrupted if I lose my health insurance, and also take several prescription medications. I am reluctant to obtain insurance through COBRA because, in my experience, it has been inordinately expensive for even a short period of time (to the tune of over \$600 dollars a month). Any disruption in my health insurance is therefore a significant source of stress for me and a potential risk to my health.

9. Because, as I understand it, I am not being terminated, it is unclear whether I will be able to obtain unemployment assistance. To ensure that we can make ends meet, I am considering taking a second job. I am committed to public service and do not wish to leave the State Legislature, for which I have worked for most of the last five years. It's hard to imagine working anywhere else. However, that leaves me with few options, because the Governor's veto has stopped the funding for the entire Legislative branch—making it impossible to consider working for another Legislative office or committee. I have also considered taking out an additional credit card or other loans to cover future expenses.

My name is Kimberly Paige Bufkin, my date of birth is January 28, 1993, and my work address is located in the State Capitol complex. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed in Travis County, Texas on: July 7, 2021.



Kimberly Paige Bufkin