

**EXHIBIT H**

**ALVARADO, et al., v. AUSTIN, et al.**

**Declaration of**

**AF Chaplain (MAJOR) William Howarth**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE VACCINE MANDATE CHALLENGE**

**DECLARATION OF MAJOR IAN WILLIAM HOWARTH**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746, I, IAN WILLIAM HOWARTH declare as follows:

1. My name is IAN WILLIAM HOWARTH. I am over 18 years of age and have personal knowledge of and am competent to testify on the matters stated herein.
2. I make this declaration in support of my challenge to the Department of Defense and Department of Air Force mandates requiring that I be vaccinated against COVID-19. All statements made in this Declaration are true to the best of my own personal knowledge.
3. I currently reside at Boise, Ada, Idaho. My home of record and where I am domiciled is Boise, Ada, Idaho.
4. I am a National Guard chaplain in the United States Air Force serving at the rank of Major. I am currently assigned to the 124<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, 3787 West Aeronca St. Boise Idaho 83705.
5. I began my military service on 24 March 2010 when I was a chaplain candidate with Oregon Army National Guard. I was commissioned on 24 March 2010 and entered the Oregon Army National Guard 24 March 2010.
6. My promotions were as follows: 1LT 24 SEP 2011, Captain 01 April 2014, Major 06 June 2018. I have approximately 12 years of service as of March 1,2022.
7. During my military career, I have had the following deployments to either combat zones or foreign areas: April 2016 - October 2016 Southwest Asia UAE.
8. I have received the following Meritorious Service Medal, Air and Space Commendation Medal 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, D.C National Guard Emergency Service Ribbon,

Idaho Emergency Duty Ribbon, Idaho Recruiting Ribbon during my military career. I have completed: Squadron Officer School 2017, Air Command and Staff College 2018, Wing Chaplain Course 2019, Mental Health Integration for Chaplain Services 2019, Deputy Wing Chaplain Course 2020.

9. I submitted my Religious Accommodation Request (RAR) (or Religious exemption) at Exhibit 1 on 28 October 2021 asking to be excused from the Air Force's COVID-19 vaccine mandate based on my sincerely held religious beliefs. A summary of those reasons follows: I believe the mandate violates my moral principles and conscience as it has the potential to cause bodily harm and or death. Being mandated to take an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) drug does not allow me to exercise my right to informed consent which is protected by 38 U.S. Code § 7331. It also violates my God-given right to bodily autonomy and the ability to live according to my religious, moral, and matters of conscience beliefs. I also requested as part of my religious practice to be exempted through being part of Clinical Trial of my choosing, I was verbally told this was denied but have not received formal paperwork indicating it has being denied.

10. My RAR package has not sent off from the 124<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at the time of writing this Declaration. My wife, a nurse practitioner and public health officer for the 124<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing resigned her commission over the vaccine mandate rather than to submit a RAR, her belief from being on the NGB Surgeon General weekly calls all requests were going to be denied. My son was part of Civil Support Team, Active Guard Reserve (AGR), was told he could not submit a RAR because it was "past" the deadline to submit, he options were to receive the shot or be discharged, he submitted his paperwork to be discharged. My daughter was enlisted to be a paralegal, she was not allowed to submit a RAR nor was she allowed to attend Basic Military Training. She is currently awaiting to be discharged and she is unable to attend drills or receive pay. This mandate has been an extreme hardship on myself and my family.

I make this declaration under penalty of perjury, it is true and accurate to the best of my ability, and it represents the testimony I would give if called upon to testify in a court of law.

July 22, 2022

/S/ Ian William Howarth

**Ian Williams Howarth**