1	JAMES L. DAY (WSBA #20474) THOMAS A. BUFORD (WSBA #52969) BUSH KORNFELD LLP HONORABLE WHITMAN L. HOLT					
2	601 Union Street, Suite 5000 Seattle, WA 98101					
3	Tel: (206) 292-2110 Email: jday@bskd.com tbuford@bskd.com					
4	SAMUEL R. MAIZEL (Admitted <i>Pro Hac Vice</i>)					
5	MALKA S. ZEEFE (Admitted <i>Pro Hac Vice</i>) DENTONS US LLP 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500					
6	Los Angeles, California 90017-5704 Tel: (213) 623-9300 Fax: (213) 623-9924					
7	Email: samuel.maizel@dentons.com malka.zeefe@dentons.com					
8	SAM J. ALBERTS (WSBA #22255) DENTONS US LLP	Time: 10:30 a.m. (Pacific Time)				
9	1900 K. Street, NW Washington, DC 20006 Tel: (202) 496-7500	Location: Telephonic only Phone Number: (877) 402-9757				
10	Fax: (202) 496-7756 Email: sam.alberts@dentons.com	Conference Code: 7036041				
11	_Attorneys for the Reorganized Debtors					
12	UNITED STA EASTERN D	TES BANKRUPTCY COURT ISTRICT OF WASHINGTON				
13	In re: ASTRIA HEALTH, et al., Chapter 11 Lead Case No. 19-01189-11 Jointly Administered					
14		REPLY TO CLAIMANT RESPONSES TO				
15	Debtors and Debtors in	REORGANIZED DEBTORS' NOTICE OF TREATMENT OF TERMINATED				
16	Possession. ¹	EMPLOYEE PRIORITY CLAIMS AND,				
		TO THE EXTENT APPLICABLE, OMNIBUS OBJECTION THERETO				
17	[Related Docket Nos. 2390, 2422, 2425-34, 2438]					
18	The Debtors, along with their case numbers, are as follows: Astria Health (19-01189-11), Glacier Canyon, LLC (19-01193-11), Kitchen and Bath Furnishings, LLC (19-01194-11), Oxbow Summit,					
19	LLC (19-01195-11), SHC Holdco, LLC (19-01196-11), SHC Medical Center - Toppenish (19-01190-11), SHC Medical Center - Yakima (19-01192-11), Sunnyside Community Hospital					
20	01197-11), Sunnyside Home Health (01199-11), Yakima Home Care Holdi	e Community Hospital Home Medical Supply, LLC (19-19-01198-11), Sunnyside Professional Services, LLC (19-ngs, LLC (19-01201-11), and Yakima HMA Home Health,				
21	LLC (19-01200-11).					
	REPLY TO CLAIMANT RESPON TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO					
19-01	TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLA 189-WLH11 Doc 2444 Filed 04/3	Phone. — 1301103210413000000000000000000000000000				

2 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704 Phone: (213) 623-9300 Entered 0443:3/21) 623-98407 F

LAW OFFICES
601 Union St., Suite 5000
Seattle, Washington 98101-2373
Telephone (206) 292-2110
Pg Zachnik (206) 292-2104

TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO

TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS

Seattle, Washington 98101-2373

Pg Helphone (206) 292-2110 Pg Lephone (206) 292-2104

Phone: (213) 623-9300

Entered 04/1:3/21) 621:98407

TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS

REPLY TO CLAIMANT RESPONSES TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS DENTONS US LLP

4 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704
Phone: (213) 623-9300

Entered 04/13/21) 621:98407

BUSH KORNFELD LLP

LAW OFFICES
601 Union St., Suite 5000
Seattle, Washington 98101-2373

Telephone (206) 292-2110

Accomile (206) 292-2104

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REPLY

A. The Objection Seeks Reasonable, Consistent, and Statutory Relief

As a threshold matter, the Reorganized Debtors wish to clarify for the Court the misunderstanding repeated throughout the Filed Responses. By the Objection, the Reorganized Debtors are not seeking to "deny" the Responding Claimants' claims for PTO they accrued while employees of the Debtors; 7 rather, the Reorganized Debtors are seeking to reclassify claims scheduled as priority to general unsecured.⁸ Moreover, the Reorganized Debtors noted in the Objection that the GUC Distribution Trustee has the authority to challenge the amount and validity of the Claimants' PTO claims in the future to the extent those claims are general unsecured; however, the GUC Distribution Trustee is not a movant and thus is not seeking such relief at this time.

As to the actual relief requested, the Reorganized Debtors recognize that in the ordinary course of business, the Employees accrued PTO. Reply Decl., ¶ 5. Once the Chapter 11 Cases filed, the Debtors continued to permit employees to use PTO

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REPLY TO CLAIMANT RESPONSES TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS

DENTONS US LLP BUSH KORNFELD LLP 5 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704 Phone: (213) 623-9300

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LAW OFFICES 601 Union St., Suite 5000 Seattle, Washington 98101-2373 Pg Telephone (206) 292-2110 Pachiil (206) 292-2104

⁷ In the Objection, the Reorganized Debtors do object to some Claimants' PTO hours as not being "contractually eligible" for payout, but that does not apply to any of the Responding Claimants. See Exhibit A to Objection.

⁸ Although the Reorganized Debtors sought in the Objection to "reduce and reclassify" as appropriate based on priority and administrative payments made, any reduction would be effectuated in relation to the final reconciliation and allowance of the remaining general unsecured claims, with any priority or administrative components disallowed.

according to company policy and, upon an employee's termination, payment of unused administrative and priority period PTO (up to the remaining applicable statutory cap of \$13,650). However, as is not uncommon in chapter 11 cases, the Debtors here developed a practice they had not needed pre-bankruptcy: that is, how accrued PTO would be calculated on a pre- versus post-petition basis for purposes of use and payout (to the extent allowed under the respective employee's arrangement). *Id.* In balancing the equities of bankruptcy and fairness to employees and other creditors of the estate, the Debtors employed the following approach. *Id.*

First, all accrued PTO hours could be utilized during the Chapter 11 Cases regardless of when it accrued, even if accrued prior to 180 days prepetition, but subject to the Debtors' other PTO policies, including staffing ratios, financial considerations, Covid-19 precautions, and manager discretion. *Id.* at ¶ 6.

Second, PTO usage and payout would be subject to a "last in, first out" or "LIFO" mechanism. Id. at ¶ 7. In other words, the last hour accrued would be the first hour used or cashed out and the PTO payout would continue to be calculated backward. Id. By way of example: (1) where an employee had a higher PTO balance at employment termination than they held on the Petition Date, such employee received a check for the difference, as an administrative expense claim; (2) where an employee had a higher PTO balance on the Petition Date than they held on the date that was 180 days prepetition, such employee received a check for the difference, as

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a priority claim; and (3) the remaining PTO balance after accounting for the administrative and priority components is considered a general unsecured claim. *Id.* Additionally, where an employee had a lower PTO balance at employment termination than they held on the Petition Date, then the negative balance in the administrative period was carried back into the calculation for the priority period, following the LIFO method. *Id.*

The Debtors adopted the above practice and reinforced it by direct individual communication whenever an employee requested information regarding PTO usage and payout, and applied it consistently for every person in every arrangement—as to both Union Employees and non-Union Employees, in settlements and ordinary course terminations. Id. at $\P 8$.

Section 507(a)(4) gives priority to "allowed unsecured claims, but only to the extent of \$13,650 for each individual . . . earned within 180 days before the date of the filing of the petition . . . for . . . wages, salaries, or commissions, including vacation, severance, and sick leave pay earned by an individual." 11 U.S.C. \$507(a)(4). Accordingly, to the extent employees have priority claims against the Debtors, they are limited in amount (subject to a \$13,650 cap) and timing (earned in the 180 days prepetition). With regard to the Claimants, the priority of their claims is limited by timing and the remaining balance under the statutory cap. Wages earned prepetition during the prior 180 days (which were limited to a stub period) were paid

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during the Chapter 11 Cases, including the first paycheck postpetition which was on account of prepetition hours earned during the priority period. The Debtors and their professionals specifically structured the Compensation Motion to pay employees their paycheck for priority period prepetition hours even though such accrual would otherwise constitute a priority claim not paid until the Plan Effective Date. The Debtors further permitted employees' use of PTO hours, including prepetition hours earlier than the 180-day priority period, so long as the PTO was approved by a manager consistent with other hospital policies (the same practice that existed prepetition). Accordingly, to the extent the Debtors could legally shine favor on their employees with regard to payment of wages and usage of PTO, they did. However, as to calculating such hour usage (and when paid out) the Debtors were bound by the Bankruptcy Code and their duty to all creditors of the estates to do so on a LIFO basis.

One of the Additional Filed Responses also stated hours owed for "EIB," or Extended Illness Bank. As stated in the Objection, no employee is eligible for EIB payout upon separation as it is not a vested benefit. Reply Decl., ¶ 11.

Prior to filing this Reply, counsel for the Reorganized Debtors reached out to each individual who submitted a Filed Response and/or Informal Inquiry to discuss

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1	the Objection and any questions the Claimant might have. ⁹ In these conversations,				
2	some Claimants, while disappointed at the prospect of recovering less than 100% on				
3	accrued PTO that was general unsecured in nature, understood the nature of the				
4	Objection. This understanding manifested in some of the Informal Inquiries never				
5	becoming Filed Responses; and one of the Filed Responses (S. Young, Claim No.				
6	476, Exhibit line 50) having been resolved. The remaining Claimants, while also				
7	seeming to understand the requested relief, were not willing to concede resolution,				
8	wanting instead to be heard by the Court.				
9	B. The Filed Responses Relate to General Unsecured Claims				
10	Applying the explanation from the previous section to the Filed Responses and				
11	Informal Inquiries, the following is a snapshot of the Claimants' PTO accrual, per				
12	consistent Debtor practice:				
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⁹ Counsel also attempted to reach out to the two individuals who submitted Non-Claimant Letters; however, the one who provided a phone number had a full voicemail box and the other did not provide contact information (and had not filed a proof of claim with contact information).

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1			Bal 11/03/18				
1	Employee		(180 days	Priority	Bal 05/04/19	Admin	Final Balance
2	Name 💌	GUC Hrs 💌	prepetition 💌	Claim Hrs 💌	(Petition Date) 💌	Claim Hrs	(at termination)
	A. Campeau	114.64	229.10604	0	195.93	0	114.6
3	S. Carlson	38.46	87.478	0	38.46	2.91	41.3
	H. Crawford	130.93	220.674	0	189.55	0	130.9
	B. Fischer	166.50	166.498	52.332	218.83	54.15	272.9
4	R. Hartwig	211.19	211.186972	18.593028	286.53	0	229.7
	W. Johnson	118.83	167.79	0	189.92	0	118.8
	A. McManus	88.66	88.6645	23.6255	129.03	0	112.2
5	B. Strutner	95.92	95.916	45.584	148.21	0	141.
	D. Wilburn	175.81	223.756	0	283.25	0	175.8
6	J. Wilburn	79.93	140.96865	0	188.97	0	79.9
	B. Yost	147.17	177.693835	0	170.42	0	147.1
	S. Young	149.37	163.63	0	151.6	0	149.3
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Reply Decl., ¶ 9.

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The above chart reveals the following:

- As a result of using PTO in the ordinary course, only two of these Claimants had a higher PTO balance at employment termination than they held on the Petition Date. Id. at ¶ 10. Those Claimants received a check for the difference times the Claimants' individual hourly rates, as an administrative expense claim. *Id*.
- As a result of using PTO in the ordinary course, only four of these Claimants had a higher PTO balance on the Petition Date than they held 180 days prepetition. Id. Those Claimants received a check for the difference times the Claimants' individual hourly rates, as a priority claim. Id. Of these four, three had a lower PTO balance at employment termination than they held on the Petition Date, so the negative balance in the administrative period was carried back into the calculation for the priority period, following the LIFO method. Id.
- The Reorganized Debtors' books and records show the above remaining PTO balances as "GUC Hrs." Id. As stated in the Objection and reiterated above, all rights and authority of the GUC Distribution Trustee to object to the Claimants' general unsecured claims as to validity, amount, and anything else are reserved and preserved. Note that J. Wilburn's PTO hours totals and classifications have been settled pursuant to the SEIU Settlement.

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REPLY TO CLAIMANT RESPONSES TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS

DENTONS US LLP BUSH KORNFELD LLP 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704 Phone: (213) 623-9300

LAW OFFICES 601 Union St., Suite 5000 Seattle, Washington 98101-2373 Telephone (206) 292-2110 Telephone (206) 292-2104

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C.

Claims

in the Objection has been conceded. Specifically:

been paid;

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REPLY TO CLAIMANT RESPONSES TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS

DENTONS US LLP 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704

Phone: (213) 623-9300

BUSH KORNFELD LLP LAW OFFICES 601 Union St., Suite 5000 Seattle, Washington 98101-2373

fail to overcome the Objection for lack of standing. Specifically, the Non-Claimant Letters were submitted by two former Union Employees whose claims for PTO (1)

The Non-Claimant Letters put forth a similar narrative to the Filed Responses,

the Reorganized Debtors or the GUC Distribution Trustee.

Relief Should be Deemed Conceded with Regard to the No Response

As noticed in the Objection, "pursuant to LBR 3007-1(c)(3), the failure to file

and serve a timely Response to the Objection by the Response Deadline may be

deemed by this Court to be consent to the relief requested therein." No response was

filed with respect to the 38 No Response Claims. Accordingly, the relief requested

• Claim 536 (line 31) should be disallowed as a duplicate; and

Claims 29, 48, and 85 (lines 20, 39, 40) should be disallowed for having

The remaining No Response Claims (Claims 485, 533, 534, 618, 515, 577, 93, 524, 657, 614, 540, 607, 461, 611, 665, 506, 520, 504, 509, 633, 513, 491, 477, 512, 501, 529, 561, 499, 456, 580, 604, 601,585,

608; lines 1-5, 8-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17, 19, 21-26, 28-30, 32-38, 41-42, 44-45, 48) should be reclassified as general unsecured claims, and

remain subject to future challenge, allowance, and/or disallowance by

which has already been refuted above. However, the Non-Claimant Letters further

were settled by SEIU, (2) were paid to the extent they were classified as priority or

administrative in the SEIU Settlement, and, critically, (3) are not included in the

The Non-Claimant Letters Lack Standing

Objection. On account of point 3, these former employees face no injury in fact by virtue of the Objection and, therefore, lack standing to respond.

Accordingly, the Reorganized Debtors restate and incorporate the Objection, including the Reservation of Rights. By the Responses, no Claimant has provided sufficient explanation or evidence to overcome the relief requested in the Objection. See In re Lundell, 223 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2000) (ultimate burden of persuasion remains at all times upon the claimant); In re Garvida, 347 B.R. 697, 706-08 (9th Cir. B.A.P. 2006) (While the "burden of going forward is primarily a procedural matter pertaining to the order of presenting evidence," the substantive burden of proof remains at all times upon the claimant.). As such, the Responses should be, respectfully, overruled.

WHEREFORE, the Reorganized Debtors request that the Court enter an order (a) sustaining the Objection, (b) disallowing or reducing and reclassifying the Claims as set forth on Exhibit A to the Objection, and (c) granting such other and further relief the Court deems just and proper.

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1	Dated: April 13, 2021	/s/ Sam J. Alberts
2		JAMES L. DAY (WSBA #20474) THOMAS A. BUFORD (WSBA
3		#52969) BUSH KORNFELD LLP
4		SAMUEL R. MAIZEL (Admitted <i>Pro</i>
5		Hac Vice) SAM J. ALBERTS (WSBA #22255)
6		MALKA S. ZEEFE (Admitted <i>Pro Hac Vice</i>)
7		DENTONS US LLP
8		Attorneys for the Reorganized Debtors
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REPLY TO CLAIMANT RESPONSES TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS US Active\118013194\V-3 DOC 2444 Filed 04/13/21

601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704 Phone: (213) 623-9300

Entered 04/1/3/213/1339207

DO LAW OFFICES
601 Union St., Suite 5000
Seattle, Washington 98101-2373
Pg Telephone (206) 292-2110
Tak Offile (206) 292-2104

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DECLARATION OF BRIAN P. GIBBONS, JR.

I, Brian P. Gibbons, Jr., declare that if called on as a witness, I would and could

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testify of my own personal knowledge as follows:

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I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of Astria Health 1. ("CEO"). I was appointed CEO by the Astria Health Board in November 2020.

I have been involved in the healthcare industry as a C-Suite executive

This declaration is prepared in support of the Reply to Claimant

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I hold a Bachelor Degree in Public Administration from Loyola since 2003.

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7

University and Masters Degrees in Administration (MBA) and in Health Science

9

(MHS) from the University of Florida. I have been associated with Astria Sunnyside

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Hospital since 2013 and have been President of Astria Sunnyside Hospital since

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2017, before being appointed President and CEO of Astria Health.

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Responses to the Reorganized Debtors' Notice of Treatment of Terminated Employee

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Priority Claims and, to the Extent Applicable, Omnibus Objection Thereto (the

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"Reply").10

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4. The statements herein are to the best of my knowledge in my capacity

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as CEO for Astria Health, and based on the personal knowledge of my employees of

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¹⁰ All capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Reply.

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DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF REPLY TO CLAIMANT RESPONSES TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS

the facts and information gathered by them.

DENTONS US LLP BUSH KORNFELD LLP 1 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704 Phone: (213) 623-9300

601 Union St., Suite 5000 Seattle, Washington 98101-2373 Telephone (206) 292-2110 Facsorial (206) 292-2104

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DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS

employed the following approach.

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7.

DENTONS US LLP 2 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704

In the ordinary course of business, the Employees accrued PTO. Once

the Chapter 11 Cases filed, the Debtors continued to permit employees to use PTO

according to company policy and, upon an employee's termination, payment of

unused administrative and priority period PTO (up to the remaining applicable

statutory cap of \$13,650). In the Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors developed a practice

they had not needed pre-bankruptcy: that is, how accrued PTO would be calculated

on a pre- versus post-petition basis for purposes of use and payout (to the extent

allowed under the respective employee's arrangement). In balancing the equities of

bankruptcy and fairness to employees and other creditors of the estates, the Debtors

Cases regardless of when it accrued, even if accrued prior to 180 days prepetition,

but subject to the Debtors' other PTO policies, including staffing ratios, financial

or "LIFO" mechanism. In other words, the last hour accrued would be the first hour

used or cashed out and the PTO payout would continue to be calculated backward.

By way of example: (1) where an employee had a higher PTO balance at employment

termination than they held on the Petition Date, such employee received a check for

the difference, as an administrative expense claim; (2) where an employee had a

considerations, Covid-19 precautions, and manager discretion.

First, all accrued PTO hours could be utilized during the Chapter 11

Second, PTO usage and payout would be subject to a "last in, first out"

Phone: (213) 623-9300

BUSH KORNFELD LLP LAW OFFICES 601 Union St., Suite 5000 Seattle, Washington 98101-2373 Telephone (206) 292-2110 15cs Phile (206) 292-2104

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higher PTO balance on the Petition Date than they held on the date that was 180 days prepetition, such employee received a check for the difference, as a priority claim; and (3) the remaining PTO balance after accounting for the administrative and priority components is considered a general unsecured claim. Additionally, where an employee had a lower PTO balance at employment termination than they held on the Petition Date, then the negative balance in the administrative period was carried back into the calculation for the priority period, following the LIFO method.

- 8. The Debtors adopted the above practice and reinforced it by direct individual communication whenever an employee requested information regarding PTO usage and payout, and applied it consistently for every person in every arrangement—as to both Union Employees and non-Union Employees, in settlements and ordinary course terminations.
- Applying the above explanation to the Filed Responses and Informal 9. Inquiries, the following is a snapshot of the Claimants' PTO accrual, per consistent Debtor practice:

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1			Bal 11/03/18				
	Employee		(180 days	Priority	Bal 05/04/19	Admin	Final Balance
3 4 5 6	Name 💌	GUC Hrs 💌	prepetition 💌	Claim Hrs 💌	(Petition Date) 💌	Claim Hrs 🔼	(at termination) 🔻
	A. Campeau	114.64	229.10604	0	195.93	0	114.64
	S. Carlson	38.46	87.478	0	38.46	2.91	41.37
3 4 5	H. Crawford	130.93	220.674	0	189.55	0	130.93
	B. Fischer	166.50	166.498	52.332	218.83	54.15	272.98
3 4 5 6	R. Hartwig	211.19	211.186972	18.593028	286.53	0	229.78
	W. Johnson	118.83	167.79	0	189.92	0	118.83
3 4 5 6	A. McManus	88.66	88.6645	23.6255	129.03	0	112.29
	B. Strutner	95.92	95.916	45.584	148.21	0	141.5
	D. Wilburn	175.81	223.756	0	283.25	0	175.81
6	J. Wilburn	79.93	140.96865	0	188.97	0	79.93
	B. Yost	147.17	177.693835	0	170.42	0	147.17
	S. Young	149.37	163.63	0	151.6	0	149.37
7							

10. The above chart reveals the following:

- As a result of using PTO in the ordinary course, only two of these Claimants had a higher PTO balance at employment termination than they held on the Petition Date. Those Claimants received a check for the difference times the Claimants' individual hourly rates, as an administrative expense claim.
- As a result of using PTO in the ordinary course, only four of these Claimants had a higher PTO balance on the Petition Date than they held Those Claimants received a check for the 180 days prepetition. difference times the Claimants' individual hourly rates, as a priority claim. Of these four, three had a lower PTO balance at employment termination than they held on the Petition Date, so the negative balance in the administrative period was carried back into the calculation for the priority period, following the LIFO method.
- The Reorganized Debtors' books and records show the above remaining PTO balances as "GUC Hrs."
- 11. One of the Additional Filed Responses also stated hours owed for "EIB" or Extended Illness Bank. No employee is eligible for EIB payout upon separation as it is not a vested benefit.

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF REPLY TO CLAIMANT RESPONSES TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS

DENTONS US LLP BUSH KORNFELD LLP 4 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704 Phone: (213) 623-9300

LAW OFFICES 601 Union St., Suite 5000 Seattle, Washington 98101-2373 Telephone (206) 292-2110 Facsorial (206) 292-2104

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Entered 04/4k3/(21b)161339207

1	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of					
2	America that the foregoing is true and correct.					
3						
4	Dated: April 13, 2021 ASTRIA HEALTH					
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6	$\Delta \wedge loo \Delta$					
7	By: Shall Brian P. Gibbons, Jr.					
8	President and Chief Executive Officer					
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DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF REPLY TO CLAIMANT RESPONSES TO OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO TERMINATED EMPLOYEE CLAIMS 19-01f894VVLH911194Vboc 2444 Filed 04/13/21

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DENTONS US LLP 5 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, CA 90017-5704

BUSH KORNFELD LLP LAW OFFICES 601 Union St., Suite 5000 Seattle, Washington 98101-2373 Ptg-12-800 (21/8-292-2110 Facsimile (206) 292-2104