Case 2:18-bk-20151-ER

Doc 2672



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Docket #2672 Date Filed: 7/3/2019

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, at 10:00 am (prevailing Pacific Time), on July 24 2019. before the Honorable Ernest M. Robles, in Courtroom 1568 of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, Roybal Federal Building, 255 E. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Verity Health System Of California, Inc. ("VHS") and the above-referenced affiliated debtors and debtors in possession in the above captioned chapter 11 bankruptcy cases (collectively, the "Debtors"), will request entry of an order, nunc pro tunc to July 1, 2019, authorizing the Debtors to make a capital contribution to the Debtors' wholly-owned captive insurer, Marillac Insurance Company, Ltd. ("Marillac"), so that the Debtors can provide sufficient collateral to secure a Replacement Letter of Credit (as defined in the annexed Memorandum) necessary to renew the Debtors' workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance policy provided by Old Republic Insurance Company, for the policy period from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that this Motion is based on this Notice of Motion and Motion, the Memorandum, the attached Declaration Of Richard G. Adcock, supporting statements, arguments and representations of a counsel who will appear at the hearing on the Motion, the record in this case, and any other evidence properly brought before the Court in all other matters of which this Court may properly take judicial notice.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any party opposing or responding to the Motion must file and serve the response ("Response") on the moving party and the United States Trustee not later than 14 days before the date designated for the hearing. A Response must be a complete written statement of all reasons in opposition thereto or in support, declarations and copies of all evidence on which the responding party intends to rely, and any responding memorandum of points and authorities.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, pursuant to LBR 9013-1(h), the failure to file and serve a timely objection to the Motion may be deemed by the Court to be consent to the relief requested herein.

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DENTONS US LLP 601 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET, SUITE 2500 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-5704 (213) 623-9300	1	Dated: July 3, 2019	DENTONS US LLP SAMUEL R. MAIZEL
	2		TANIA M. MOYRON
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	4		By/s/ Tania M. Moyron Tania M. Moyron
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	6		Attorneys for the Chapter 11 Debtors and Debtors In Possession
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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I.

INTRODUCTION

As a supplement to the Insurance Motion (a First-Day Motion and defined below) and in furtherance of the relief requested therein, Verity Health System Of California, Inc. ("VHS"), and the above-referenced affiliated debtors and debtors in possession in the above captioned chapter 11 bankruptcy cases (collectively, the "Debtors"), request authority to make a capital contribution to VHS's wholly-owned captive insurer, Marillac Insurance Company, Ltd. ("Marillac"), so that the Debtors can provide sufficient collateral to secure a Replacement Letter of Credit (defined herein) necessary to renew the Debtors' Workers' Compensation Policy (defined herein) with Old Republic Insurance Company ("Old Republic"). The current coverage expires on July 1, 2019, and Old Republic has agreed to continue to provide coverage through January 1, 2020, if the Debtors file a motion for approval of certain accommodations by July 1, 2019; and obtain approval thereof, ¹ and provide an Replacement Letter of Credit (defined herein) and pay the applicable premiums. Accordingly, the Debtors request entry of an order, nunc pro tunc to July 1, 2019, authorizing the Debtors to pay the Capital Contribution (defined herein) to Marillac to provide sufficient required collateral for the Replacement Letter of Credit necessary to renew the Debtors' Workers' Compensation Policy.

II.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

This Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

¹ On July 1, 2019, the Debtors filed a motion to approve certain accommodations to Old Republic [Docket No. 2654].

BACKGROUND

III.

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² All references to "§" or "section" herein are to the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101, et seq., as amended.

General Background

- 1. On August 31, 2018 ("Petition Date"), the Debtors each filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11. Since the commencement of their cases, the Debtors have been operating their businesses as debtors in possession pursuant to §§ 1107 and 1108.²
- 2. On the Petition Date, Debtor VHS, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, was the sole corporate member of the following five Debtor California nonprofit public benefit corporations that operate or operated six acute care hospitals, O'Connor Hospital, Saint Louise Regional Hospital, St. Francis Medical Center, St. Vincent Medical Center, Seton Medical Center, and Seton Medical Center Coastside (collectively, the "Hospitals") and other facilities in the state of California. First-Day Decl., at 4, ¶ 11. Seton Medical Center and Seton Medical Center Coastside operate under one consolidated acute care license. *Id.*
- 3. On the Petition Date, VHS, the Hospitals, and their affiliated entities (collectively, "Verity Health System") operated as a nonprofit health care system, with approximately 1,680 inpatient beds, six active emergency rooms, a trauma center, eleven medical office buildings, and a host of medical specialties, including tertiary and quaternary care. First-Day Decl., at 4, ¶ 12. A sale of O'Connor Hospital and Saint Louise Regional Hospital to Santa Clara County closed in February 2019.
- 4. Each of the Debtors is exempt from federal income taxation as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "IRC"), except for Verity Holdings, LLC, DePaul Ventures, LLC, and DePaul Ventures - San Jose Dialysis, LLC. First-Day Decl., at 6, ¶ 21.
- 5. On September 17, 2018, the Office of the United States Trustee appointed an Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in these cases. [Docket No. 197.]

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В. **Background Relevant to the Motion**

Workers' Compensation Policy

- 6. As of the Petition Date, Old Republic provided workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance to certain of the Debtors, through a policy of insurance, for the policy period from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019 (the "Workers' Compensation Policy"). The Workers' Compensation Policy provides coverage up to \$1 million for each workers' compensation claim and includes a \$500,000 deductible for each claim.
- 7. In turn, the deductible obligation is insured under a Deductible Liability Protection Policy issued by Marillac, in which Marillac agreed to provide coverage for the deductible obligations under the Debtors' Workers' Compensation Policy.³ Marillac (a non-debtor) is the Debtors' captive insurer, and is organized in the Cayman Islands. VHS is the sole owner of Marillac.

ii. Letter of Credit

8. The Workers' Compensation Policy required the Debtors to provide Old Republic a letter of credit as security for the Debtors' obligations under the Workers' Compensation Policy. See Workers' Compensation Policy - Program Agreement Endorsement, § 9.1. To satisfy this security requirement under the Workers' Compensation Policy, an irrevocable, fully-collateralized, letter of credit was issued by City National Bank with Old Republic as the named beneficiary (the "Letter of Credit"). Marillac is the applicant on the Letter of Credit, and the Letter of Credit is fully secured by Marillac assets—\$34,087,296 of liquid securities. The Letter of Credit, in the amount of \$34,087,296, fully secures the Debtors' obligations to Old Republic under the current Workers' Compensation Policy, as well as prior policies.⁴

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³ Marillac has agreed to renew the Deductible Liability Protection Policy if the Workers' Compensation Policy is renewed.

⁴ Workers' compensation claims can be paid over years and may take years to run off. In addition, incurred but not reported claims (IBNR) may be reported months (or more) after the policy period.

iii. The Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal Proposal⁵

- 9. Given the July 1, 2019, expiration of the existing Workers' Compensation Policy, Old Republic has proposed a policy renewal (the "Renewal Proposal") whereby Old Republic will continue to provide workers' compensation insurance coverage to the Debtors for the policy period from July 1, 2019 to January 1, 2020 (the "Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy"). Generally, except as noted below, the terms of the Renewed Workers' Policy will be substantially similar to the Workers' Compensation Policy issued to the Debtors for the policy period from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019.
- 10. Among the notable provisions that Old Republic has included in the proposal for the Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy are the following:
- a. The Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy includes an increase in premiums to \$1,311,970, which must be paid in full by July 1, 2019. This represents a 33% increase on an annualized basis.
- b. The Debtors shall provide Old Republic with an replacement to the Letter of Credit whereby the amount of the Letter of Credit is increased by \$4,253,638 to \$38,340,934 (the "Replacement Letter of Credit"). The Replacement Letter of Credit will be issued by U.S. Bank.
- 11. Old Republic's proposed Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy is superior to any alternative insurance coverage. The Debtors, through their broker, Lockton Companies, Inc., sought proposals for a renewal of the Workers' Compensation Policy from twenty-two carriers in addition to Old Republic. Twenty-one of those carriers declined. The California Compensation Insurance Fund (the "Fund") submitted a renewal proposal which estimated the annual premium to be \$16,238,980 many times the premium included in Old Republic's Renewal Proposal.
- 12. As stated, the collateral securing the Letter of Credit is Marillac's assets. To provide for the additional required collateral to secure the Replacement Letter of Credit, a capital

⁵ The Debtors' entry into the Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy (defined below) is authorized under the Insurance Order. Information regarding the Renewal Proposal is only included because of its relevance to the relief requested herein.

contribution to Marillac is necessary in the amount of \$4,253,638 (the "<u>Capital Contribution</u>"). In the event that claim development indicates excess collateral,⁶ such collateral would be returned to Marillac. VHS is separately evaluating its options regarding Marillac. One option is sale of VHS's shares in Marillac. In that event, the infusion of \$4.2 million to Marillac to increase the Letter of Credit may increase the value of the Marillac shares.

iv. Insurance Motion and Order

13. On the Petition Date, the Debtors filed an Emergency Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing the Debtors to (A) Maintain Insurance Program, (B) Pay Insurance Premiums in the Ordinary Course and (C) Pay All Obligations Associated Therewith; and (II) Preventing Insurance Companies from Enforcing Ipso Facto Clauses or Giving Any Notice of Termination or Otherwise Modifying Any Insurance Policy Without Obtaining Relief from the Automatic Stay [Docket No. 24] (the "Insurance Motion"). On September 7, 2018, the Court entered an Order granting the Insurance Motion [Docket No. 131] (the "Insurance Order"). Pursuant to the Insurance Order, the Debtors are authorized to, among other things, continue to administer insurance coverage currently in effect and pay insurance premiums, self-insured retentions, broker fees and deductibles in the ordinary course of business, and revise, extend, supplement, renew or change insurance coverage as needed. The Insurance Motion and Insurance Order did not expressly address the collateral requirement in connection with policy renewals. Therefore, to the extent (if any) not authorized by the Insurance Motion and Insurance Order, the Debtors seek authority by this Motion to contribute necessary funds to Marillac to collateralize the Replacement Letter of Credit.

⁶ The issue of required collateral for the Old Republic coverage, and a reduction (or increase) thereof is dealt with in Section 9 of the Program Agreement Endorsement to the Old Republic Policy. Per Section 9.2 of the Program Agreement Endorsement:

[A]t such times as the Company deems it appropriate or necessary, but at least annually, and until all liability with respect to the insured's Obligations has been paid or otherwise concluded, the Company shall, applying generally accepted actuarial and credit review principles, review the security requirement. The Company shall have the sole right to determine the adequacy of the amount of security to be held.

IV.

DISCUSSION AND RELIEF REQUESTED

The Insurance Motion and Insurance Order authorized the Debtors to continue to administer insurance coverage currently in effect and pay insurance premiums, self-insured retentions, broker fees and deductibles in the ordinary course of business, and revise, extend, supplement, renew or change insurance coverage as needed. However, the Insurance Motion and Insurance Order did not specifically take into account that additional collateral may be needed to renew existing insurance coverage. Thus, by this Motion, the Debtors specifically request entry of an order authorizing the Debtors to make a Capital Contribution to Marillac to effectuate the required collateralization. The Debtors submit that payment of this Capital Contribution to Marillac is appropriate pursuant to §§ 105(a) and 363(b).

A. Payment of the Capital Contribution is appropriate under § 363.

Section 363(b) provides that "[t]he trustee, after notice and a hearing, may use, sell, or lease, other than in the ordinary course of business, property of the estate." 11 U.S.C. § 363(b). Under applicable law, if a debtor's proposed use of the debtor's assets pursuant to § 363(b) is supported by the debtor's reasonable business judgment, such use should be approved. *See, e.g., 240 N. Brand Partners v. Colony GFP Partners, Ltd. P'ship (In re 240 N. Brand Partners),* 200 B.R. 653, 659 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1996); *Myers v. Martin (In re Martin),* 91 F.3d 389, 395 (3d Cir. 1996) (*citing In re Schipper (Fulton State Bank v. Schipper),* 933 F.2d 513, 515 (7th Cir. 1991)); *Stephens Indus., Inc. v. McClung,* 789 F.2d 386, 390 (6th Cir. 1986); *In re Lionel Corp. (Comm. of Equity Security Holders v. Lionel Corp.),* 722 F.2d 1063, 1070 (2d Cir. 1983).

Under the business judgment standard, the debtor must establish that a valid business purpose exists for the use of the debtor's assets in a manner outside of the debtor's ordinary course of business. *See Lionel Corp.*, 722 F.2d at 1071. Once the debtor establishes a valid business justification for the proposed use of the debtor's assets, it is presumed that the decision was made "on an informed basis, in good faith and in the honest belief that the action was in the best interests of the company." *In re Integrated Resources, Inc.*, 147 B.R. 650, 656 (S.D.N.Y. 1992) (*quoting Smith v. Van Gorkom*, 488 A.2d 858, 872 (Del. 1985)). The business judgment rule therefore shields

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a debtor's management from judicial second-guessing and mandates that a court approve a debtor's business decision unless that decision is the product of bad faith or gross abuse of discretion. See id.; see also Committee of Asbestos-Related Litigants and/or Creditors v. Johns-Manville Corp. (In re Johns-Manville Corp.), 60 B.R. 612, 615-16 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1986) ("the Code favors the continued operation of a business by a debtor and a presumption of reasonableness attaches to a debtor's management decisions"); see also Lubrizol Enters., Inc. v. Richmond Metal Finishers, Inc., 756 F.2d 1043, 1047 (4th Cir. 1985), cert. denied, 475 U.S. 1057 (1986).

As set forth in greater detail below, the Debtors submit that there is more than ample business justification to authorize payment of the Capital Contribution. Old Republic has agreed to renew the Workers' Compensation Policy, but, it agreed to do so only if an Replacement Letter of Credit is provided, which requires the posting of additional collateral in the form of Marillac's assets. Consequently, to provide the additional collateral to secure the Replacement Letter of Credit and renew the Workers' Compensation Policy, the Debtors will make the Capital Contribution to Marillac. There is no alternative workers' compensation coverage available, except the coverage offered from the Fund at a significantly higher cost. Further, Debtors would incur substantial disruption in the claims management process if they converted to a new carrier. In the first instance, even with a new carrier, the Debtors would have no practical ability to expeditiously reduce the amount of collateral held by Old Republic, which covers existing obligations, as well as those obligations under the Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy. Further, converting to a new carrier and possibly its claims processing system would be burdensome and costly, particularly in view of the number of outstanding claims already being addressed.

Simply stated, the cost that may be incurred by making the Capital Contribution to secure the Replacement Letter of Credit and renew the Workers' Compensation Policy with Old Republic would be far outweighed by the monetary cost, administrative cost and dislocation that inevitably would result in connection with establishing a new carrier, new systems, and possibly new claims handling processes and procedures.

Additionally, the Debtors, as employers and operators of a non-profit healthcare system in California, must maintain workers' compensation insurance coverage. See, e.g. Cal. Lab. Code §

3700 (requiring workers' compensation coverage). If the Debtors do not maintain workers' compensation insurance coverage, the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement may issue a stop order prohibiting the use of employee labor until coverage is obtained. *See* Cal. Lab. Code § 3722(b). If the Debtors fail to observe the stop order, they will be subject to imprisonment or a fine, or both. *See id*.

The Capital Contribution is made to ensure that such coverage remains in place. Doing so will support the pending sale of St. Francis Medical Center, St. Vincent Medical Center, St. Vincent Dialysis Center, Inc. and Seton Medical Center and related assets, which has yet to close. In view of these recognized benefits, and the costs, expenses, risks, and disruption that will inevitably occur in the absence of payment of the Capital Contribution, the Debtors submit that approval of the relief requested herein is clearly warranted.

B. Section 105 provides a separate, additional basis for payment of the Capital Contribution.

The Debtor's proposed payment of the Capital Contribution also should be authorized under the "doctrine of necessity," which is grounded in § 105(a). Pursuant to § 105, this Court "may issue any order . . . that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions" of the Bankruptcy Code. 11 U.S.C. § 105.

The Debtors submit that the payment of the Capital Contribution represents a sound exercise of the Debtors' business judgment, is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm to the Debtors' estates, and is therefore justified under §§ 105(a) and 363(b). Paying the Capital Contribution will benefit the Debtors' estates and their creditors by allowing the Debtors' business operations to continue without interruption. Indeed, the Debtors believe that without the relief requested herein, they will be unable to maintain their current workers' compensation insurance coverage or find suitable replacement coverage. Without workers' compensation insurance coverage the Debtors will be unable to maintain patient care, operate their business and successfully complete the pending hospital sale or their bankruptcy cases.

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DENTONS US LLP 601 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2500 Los Angeles, California 90017-5704 (213) 623-9300 For the reasons discussed herein, payment of the Capital Contribution is necessary to ensure that the Debtors are able to continue to treat patients and maintain operations postpetition. This Court should exercise its equitable powers to grant the relief requested in this Motion.

V.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, the Debtors request the entry of an order: (i) granting the relief requested herein; and (ii) granting such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Dated: July 3, 2019

DENTONS US LLP
SAMUEL R. MAIZEL
TANIA R. MOYRON

By: /s/Tania M. Moyron
Tania M. Moyron

Attorneys for Debtors

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DECLARATION OF RICHARD G. ADCOCK

- I, Richard G. Adcock, declare, that if called as a witness, I would and could competently testify thereto, of my own personal knowledge, as follows:
- 1. I am the Chief Executive Officer for Verity Health Systems of California, Inc. ("VHS"). I became the Debtors' Chief Executive Officer effective January 2018. Prior thereto, I served as VHS's Chief Operating Officer since August 2017.
- 2. Except as otherwise indicated herein, this Declaration is based upon my personal knowledge, my review of relevant documents, or my opinion based upon my experience, knowledge, and information concerning the Debtors' operations and the healthcare industry. If called upon to testify, I would testify competently to the facts set forth in this Declaration.
- 3. This Declaration is in support of the Debtors' Supplemental Insurance Motion For Authorization to Make Capital Contribution to Marillac Insurance Company, Ltd. (the "Motion") and for all other purposes permitted by law.
- As of the Petition Date, Old Republic provided workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance to certain of the Debtors, through a policy of insurance, for the policy period from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019 (the "Workers' Compensation Policy"). The Workers' Compensation Policy provides coverage up to \$1 million for each workers' compensation claim and includes a \$500,000 deductible for each claim.
- 5. In turn, the deductible obligation is insured under a Deductible Liability Protection Policy issued by Marillac Insurance Company, Ltd. ("Marillac"), in which Marillac agreed to provide coverage for the deductible obligations under the Debtors' Workers' Compensation Policy. Marillac (a non-debtor) is the Debtors' captive insurer, and is organized in the Cayman Islands. VHS is the sole owner of Marillac.
- The Workers' Compensation Policy requires the Debtors to provide Old Republic a 6. letter of credit as security for the Debtors' obligations under the Workers' Compensation Policy.

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See Workers' Compensation Policy - Program Agreement Endorsement, § 9.1. To satisfy this security requirement under the Workers' Compensation Policy, an irrevocable, fully-collateralized, letter of credit was issued by City National Bank with Old Republic as the named beneficiary (the "Letter of Credit"). The Letter of Credit, in the amount of \$34,087,296, fully secures the Debtors' obligations to Old Republic under the current Workers' Compensation Policy, as well as prior policies.

- 7. Given the July 1, 2019, expiration of the existing Workers' Compensation Policy, Old Republic has proposed a policy renewal (the "Renewal Proposal") whereby Old Republic will continue to provide workers' compensation insurance coverage to the Debtors for the policy period from July 1, 2019 to January 1, 2020 (the "Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy"). Generally, except as noted below, the terms of the Renewed Workers' Policy will be substantially similar to the Workers' Compensation Policy issued to the Debtors for the policy period from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019.
- 8. Among the notable provisions that Old Republic has included in the proposal for the Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy are the following:
- The Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy includes an increase in a. premiums to \$1,311,970, which must be paid in full by July 1, 2019. This represents a 33% increase on an annualized basis.
- b. The Debtors shall provide Old Republic with an replacement to the Letter of Credit whereby the amount of the Letter of Credit is increased by \$4,253,638 to \$38,340,934 (the "Replacement Letter of Credit"). The Replacement Letter of Credit will be issued by U.S. Bank.
- 9. Old Republic's proposed Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy is superior to any alternative insurance coverage. The Debtors, through their broker, Lockton Companies, Inc., sought proposals for a renewal of the Workers' Compensation Policy from twenty-two carriers in addition to Old Republic. Twenty-one of those carriers declined. The California Compensation Insurance

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Fund (the "Fund") submitted a renewal proposal which estimated the annual premium to be \$16,238,980 - many times the premium included in Old Republic's Renewal Proposal.

- 10. As stated, the collateral securing the Letter of Credit is Marillac's assets. To provide for the additional required collateral to secure the Replacement Letter of Credit, a capital contribution to Marillac is necessary in the amount of \$4,253,638 (the "Capital Contribution"). In the event that claim development indicates excess collateral, such collateral would be returned to Marillac. VHS is separately evaluating its options regarding Marillac. One option is sale of VHS's shares in Marillac. In that event, the infusion of \$4.2 million to Marillac to increase the Letter of Credit will may increase the value of the Marillac shares.
- 11. I believe that there is more than ample business justification to authorize payment of the Capital Contribution. Old Republic has agreed to renew the Workers' Compensation Policy, but, it agreed to do so only if an Replacement Letter of Credit is provided, which requires the posting of additional collateral in the form of Marillac's assets. Consequently, to provide the additional collateral to secure the Replacement Letter of Credit and renew the Workers' Compensation Policy, the Debtors will make the Capital Contribution to Marillac. There is no alternative workers' compensation coverage available, except the coverage offered from the Fund at a significantly higher cost. Further, Debtors would incur substantial disruption in the claims management process if they convert to a new carrier. In the first instance, even with a new carrier Debtors would have no practical ability to expeditiously reduce the amount of collateral held by Old Republic, which covers existing obligations as well as those obligations under the Renewed Workers' Compensation Policy. Further, converting to a new carrier and possibly its claims processing system would be burdensome and costly, particularly in view of the number of outstanding claims already being addressed. All of this would come with the risk of the pending sale of St. Francis Medical Center, St. Vincent Medical Center, St. Vincent Dialysis Center, Inc. and Seton Medical Center and related assets given the California law requirement to maintain workers' compensation insurance coverage.

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I declare under penalty of perjury and of the laws in the United States of America, the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 2nd day of July, 2019, at Los Angeles, California.

RICHARD G. ADCOCK

DENTONS US LLP 601 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET, SUITE 2500 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-5704 (213) 623-9300