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17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
18 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
19 SAN JOSE DIVISION

20 JANE DOE 1, et al.  
21 Plaintiffs,  
22 v.  
23 KIRSTJEN NIELSEN, et al.  
24 Defendants.

CASE NO. 5:18-cv-02349 BLF

**PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF  
AMENDED MOTION FOR CLASS  
CERTIFICATION**

Hearing:  
Date: June 22, 2018  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Courtroom 3 (5th Floor)

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 By Defendants’ own count, there are 87 individuals whose Lautenberg-Specter refugee  
3 applications were denied in February 2018. They were given no explanation for their rejection  
4 other than a form response, which said only that their applications were denied “as a matter of  
5 discretion.” They are now stranded in Vienna (at risk of deportation back to Iran) and separated  
6 from their U.S.-based sponsors. This is the sad story of Does 1 through 5, and it is exactly what  
7 happened to the rest of the class.

8 In a classic strawman argument, Defendants oppose Plaintiffs’ Amended Motion for  
9 Class Certification (and Plaintiffs’ claims, more broadly) with the argument that this Court  
10 cannot review the Department of Homeland Secretary’s discretionary decision to accept or reject  
11 refugee applications. But Plaintiffs do not bring any such claim and do not seek such relief on  
12 behalf of the class. Instead, Plaintiffs ask this Court to set aside the denials that failed to comply  
13 with the Lautenberg Amendment and applicable agency procedures, and to order that if  
14 Defendants deny those applications again, any reissued denials must “state, to the maximum  
15 extent feasible, the reason for the denial” so Plaintiffs and class members have a meaningful  
16 opportunity to request reviews of those denials. Plaintiffs are *not* asking this Court to review the  
17 denial decision itself or admit the refugee class members to the United States.

18 Perhaps Defendants’ Opposition misconstrues Plaintiffs’ claims because Defendants have  
19 no response to the one question of justiciability raised by this Court and addressed in Plaintiffs’  
20 Amended Motion—that Plaintiffs have standing to bring their claims, including on behalf of a  
21 class that includes foreign nationals living abroad. Plaintiffs have suffered injuries-in-fact  
22 caused by Defendants’ violations of the Lautenberg Amendment and this Court has the power to  
23 grant redress. That is sufficient to establish standing for Plaintiffs, regardless of their location or  
24 nationality.

25 As to Rule 23 itself, Defendants’ Opposition does nothing more than recycle their off-  
26 base “justiciability” arguments about claims that Plaintiffs have not asserted. For the reasons set  
27 out in Plaintiffs’ Amended Motion and below, Plaintiffs’ claims are justiciable, Plaintiffs and the  
28

1 proposed class have standing to bring this action, and the numerosity, commonality, typicality,  
 2 and adequacy requirements of Rule 23(a) have each been met. As Defendants have acted, and  
 3 refused to act, on grounds generally applicable to Plaintiffs and all class members, the  
 4 declaratory and mandamus relief sought would benefit the entire class and Rule 23(b)(2) is  
 5 satisfied. Accordingly, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant their Amended Motion  
 6 for Class Certification.

## 7 **II. ARGUMENT**

### 8 **A. Plaintiffs' Claims are Justiciable**

9 Defendants' primary argument, which pervades their entire brief, is that Plaintiffs' claims  
 10 are not justiciable. However, the claims Defendants argue are not justiciable are claims that  
 11 Plaintiffs *have not brought*, and Defendants' arguments are therefore irrelevant. In any event,  
 12 each of Plaintiffs' actual claims is justiciable. And, tellingly, Defendants' Opposition does not  
 13 contest the justiciability issue of standing—as it is evident that Plaintiffs have standing to assert  
 14 claims on behalf of a class that includes foreign nationals living abroad.

#### 15 **1. Defendants Challenge the Justiciability of Unasserted Claims**

16 In both the Amended Motion for Class Certification and the Complaint, Plaintiffs  
 17 expressly seek “declaratory relief and an order that (1) the Notices of Ineligibility are unlawful;  
 18 (2) the Notices of Ineligibility are set aside; (3) should Defendants reissue Notices, those Notices  
 19 shall comply with the Lautenberg Amendment and applicable agency procedures by ‘stat[ing], to  
 20 the maximum extent feasible, the reason for the denial’; (4) if Notices are reissued, Defendants  
 21 give putative class members an opportunity to submit Requests for Reviews based on the  
 22 reissued Notices; and (5) that the undisclosed program changes that resulted in the mass denials  
 23 are unlawful and are set aside.” Amended Motion for Class Certification (“Class Mot.”) at 6  
 24 (ECF 60); *see also* Compl. ¶¶ 78-96 (ECF 1). But instead of addressing whether the Court  
 25 should certify a class with respect to those claims, Defendants focus their arguments on the  
 26 justiciability of a claim Plaintiffs *have never made*: that this Court order the Defendants to  
 27 permit the refugee class members to enter the United States. *See e.g.* Defendants' Opposition to  
 28

1 Plaintiffs’ Motion for Class Certification (“Opp.”) at 1 (ECF 72) (“the government’s decision *to*  
2 *exclude an alien* is immune from judicial review”) (emphasis added).

3 Plaintiffs do not ask this Court to overturn Defendants’ “decision to exclude” any  
4 proposed class member, and Defendants’ arguments about the justiciability of a claim of that  
5 nature are irrelevant. The absence of a “statutorily prescribed procedure” for “challenging a  
6 statutorily discretionary determination” to deny admission to an alien, (Opp. at 9), the consular  
7 nonreviewability doctrine that “denial or revocation of a visa for an alien abroad is not subject  
8 for judicial review,” (*id.* at 10-11), and the bar under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B)(ii) on judicial  
9 authority “to review the refugee denials themselves,” (*id.* at 15), are matters of only academic  
10 interest ***and are of no consequence to this action.*** Those arguments plainly cannot affect the  
11 justiciability of Plaintiffs’ claims, which instead request an order setting aside the Notice of  
12 Ineligibility and requiring any subsequent denials to “state, to the maximum extent feasible, the  
13 reason for the denial,” as well as an order setting aside the undisclosed program changes that  
14 caused this mass denial. Compl. ¶¶ 78-91, 95-96 (ECF 1).

15 Further, Defendants’ argument that there is no constitutional right to review visa denials  
16 outside of the marriage context also is irrelevant to this Motion. Opp. at 12-14. As made clear in  
17 the Complaint, the constitutional claim made under the Fifth Amendment liberty interest claim is  
18 filed on behalf of Plaintiffs Jane Doe 1 and John Doe 2 only, and not on behalf of the proposed  
19 class. Compl. ¶¶ 92-94 (heading) (stating claim is “On Behalf of Does 1 and 2”). Thus, the  
20 justiciability of this claim also is irrelevant to Plaintiffs’ claims made on behalf of the proposed  
21 class and to the determination of this Motion.

22 In sum, all of Defendants’ arguments regarding nonjusticiability are entirely irrelevant to  
23 the issues in this Motion and the action as a whole, and should be disregarded.<sup>1</sup>

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24  
25 <sup>1</sup>And, even if Defendants were correct that Plaintiffs had asserted claims that are subject to  
26 various doctrines of non-reviewability and jurisdiction stripping statutes, many of  
27 Defendants’ arguments are not truly about Article III justiciability and, instead, raise only  
28 substantive defenses to the merits of (unasserted) claims. As the Supreme Court has made clear,  
courts deciding class certification should not consider substantive merits issues unless relevant  
and necessary to determining if Rule 23 has been met. *Amgen Inc. v. Connecticut Retirement  
Plans & Trust Funds*, 568 US 455, 465-66 (2013); *Stockwell v. City & County of San Francisco*,

1                                   **2.       Plaintiffs’ Claims are Justiciable**

2                   Having focused their arguments on claims Plaintiffs do not assert, Defendants failed to  
3 challenge the justiciability of the claims Plaintiffs do assert. Nevertheless, and for the avoidance  
4 of doubt, each such claim is justiciable.

5                                   **a.       First through Fourth Causes of Action**

6                   Plaintiffs’ first four causes of action seek: (1) declaratory judgment; (2) relief under the  
7 Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”) for violation of the Lautenberg Amendment; (3) relief  
8 under the APA for violation of the *Accardi* doctrine; and (4) mandamus under the Mandamus  
9 Act. Each claim seeks an order requiring the government to comply with a non-discretionary  
10 duty, and the justiciability of such claims is beyond challenge.

11                   As to the non-discretionary nature of the obligation, section 8 U.S.C. § 1157 (note), Pub.  
12 L. 101-167, Title V, § 599 D (c) (Nov. 21, 1989) (as amended), is clear that government’s  
13 obligation is mandatory as it “*shall state*, to the maximum extent feasible, the reason for the  
14 denial.” (Emphasis added.) Indeed, Defendants expressly concede the non-discretionary nature  
15 of the obligation as they admit that the section “*requires* that the government shall ‘state, to the  
16 maximum extent feasible, the reason for the denial’” and communicates Congress’s “desire for  
17 the government to disclose its reasons for denying refugee applicants when possible.”  
18 Defendants’ Response to Plaintiffs’ Motion for Partial Summary Judgment at 2, 13 (emphasis  
19 added) (ECF 71).

20                   As to the justiciability of claims requesting that a court order the government to comply  
21 with a non-discretionary duty, courts routinely hold that they have jurisdiction to make such an  
22 order. By way of example only, the court in *Attifi v. Kerry* held that it had jurisdiction to order  
23 the government to provide the reason for a denial of a visa because the provision of that reason  
24 was a non-discretionary obligation, No. CIV. S-12-3001 LKK/DAN, 2013 WL 5954818, at \*7  
25 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 6, 2013); the court in *Amidi v. Chertoff* held it had jurisdiction to determine a  
26 challenge to the government’s decision to terminate or cancel a visa application as it did not

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 749 F.3d 1107, 1111 (9th Cir. 2014) (no “free-ranging merits inquiries” at class certification  
stage).

1 concern “the discretionary decision of whether to approve or deny the application,” No.  
 2 07CV710 (AJB), 2008 WL 2662599, \*3-4 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2008); the court in *Ibrahim v.*  
 3 *Dep’t of Homeland Sec.* held it had jurisdiction to review the government’s failure to comply  
 4 with its non-discretionary duty to advise a foreign national of his waiver eligibility, 62 F. Supp.  
 5 3d 909, 932 (N.D. Cal. 2014); the court in *Rivas v. Napolitano* held that consular non-  
 6 reviewability does not bar a court from ordering the government to comply with the non-  
 7 discretionary duty to act on a request for reconsideration of a visa application, 714 F.3d 1108,  
 8 1110-1112 (9th Cir. 2013); and the court in *Singh v. Clinton* noted that the government had  
 9 correctly abandoned its consular non-reviewability challenge to a claim that they had failed to  
 10 notify a visa applicant of their intent to terminate his visa application, 618 F.3d 1085, 1088 (9th  
 11 Cir. 2010).

12 Accordingly, this Court unquestionably has jurisdiction to determine Plaintiffs’ first four  
 13 claims asserted on behalf of the proposed class, and to resolve the issue of whether or not the  
 14 government complied with its non-discretionary obligation to “state, to the maximum extent  
 15 feasible, the reason for the denial” in the Notices of Ineligibility.

16 **b. Sixth Cause of Action<sup>2</sup>**

17 Plaintiffs’ sixth cause of action requests the Court order that undisclosed program  
 18 changes in late 2016 that resulted in the mass denials are unlawful and must be set aside. Compl.  
 19 ¶¶ 32-50, 95-96. As Defendants agree in their Opposition, such claims are justiciable because  
 20 they “do not seek review of individual adjudicatory decisions, but rather the government’s  
 21 ‘promulgation of sweeping immigration policy.’” Opp. at 11 (citing *Doe v. Trump*, 288 F. Supp.  
 22 3d 1045, 1069 (W.D. Wash. 2017)). Indeed, as Defendants note, “‘exercises of policymaking  
 23 authority at the highest levels of the political branches are plainly not subject to the’” consular  
 24 nonreviewability doctrine. *Id.* (citing *Washington v. Trump*, 847 F.3d 1151, 1163 (9th Cir.  
 25 2017)).

26  
 27  
 28 <sup>2</sup>As noted above, the fifth cause of action is asserted on behalf of Plaintiffs Does 1 and 2 only,  
 not on behalf of the class.

1 Thus, this last cause of action asserted by Plaintiffs on behalf of the proposed class also is  
2 justiciable.

3 **3. Plaintiffs' Standing to Bring this Class Action is Unchallenged**

4 As explained in the Amended Motion, Plaintiffs have standing to bring these claims.  
5 They each have suffered concrete, particularized, and actual injuries of prolonged separation  
6 from family members without lawful justification and economic harm, (Class Mot. at 9-10), and  
7 Plaintiffs Does 3 through 5 have also been harmed by the loss of their ability to pursue a fair  
8 Request For Review process, (*id.* at 10). Each of those injuries is causally connected to the  
9 complained of conduct, and each will be redressed by a favorable decision. *Id.* Plaintiffs also  
10 have satisfied prudential standing as they each fall within the “zone of interests” to be protected  
11 by the APA. *Id.* at 11. Finally, foreign nationals living abroad are entitled to participate in a  
12 class action. *Id.* at 12-13. Defendants do not contest any of these points in their Opposition—a  
13 concession through silence that Plaintiffs have standing. *Ramirez v. Ghilotti Bros. Inc.*, 941 F.  
14 Supp. 2d 1197, 1210 n.7 (N.D. Cal. 2013) (failure to address a claim in a party’s opposition brief  
15 concedes the issue raised).

16 **B. Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class Satisfy the Requirements of Rule 23(a)**

17 **1. Defendants Concede the Proposed Class is Numerous**

18 Defendants do not contest that the proposed class fails to satisfy the numerosity  
19 requirement of Rule 23(a), and are therefore deemed to have waived any argument to the  
20 contrary. *Ramirez*, 941 F. Supp. 2d at 1210 n.7. In fact, Defendants’ Opposition confirms that  
21 the number of proposed class members is at least 87, which is more than enough to satisfy the  
22 numerosity requirement. Opp. at 5:1-2 (“In February 2018, United States Citizenship and  
23 Immigration Services (“USCIS”) issued denials to 56 Iranian refugee applicants and their 31  
24 family members in Vienna.”); *Rannis v. Recchia*, 380 F. App’x 646, 651 (9th Cir. 2010) (holding  
25 that although the Supreme Court determined that a class of 15 would be too small, the court’s  
26 analysis “did not undermine a district court’s discretion” to certify a class of 20 members).

27  
28

1                                   **2.       Questions of Law and Fact are Common to the Class**

2                   In their Opposition, Defendants argue that class members can be distinguished from one  
3 another in two ways: (1) nonresident aliens have “no constitutional right of entry into the  
4 country” but a U.S.-citizen spouse “may have a protected liberty interest that entitles her to  
5 limited judicial review” of her spouse’s immigration denial; and (2) the class includes spouses  
6 and non-spouses, but “no case supports extending due-process rights to the entry of family  
7 members other than spouses.” Opp. at 17. As both of these distinctions are irrelevant, neither  
8 preclude a finding of commonality.

9                   The relevance of a class members’ characteristic to the commonality requirement is  
10 determined by reference “to the factual and legal issues at the core of the purported class’  
11 claims.” *Jimenez v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 765 F.3d 1161, 1165 (9th Cir. 2014). Because Plaintiffs  
12 neither bring a claim for an order permitting the refugees to enter the United States nor assert a  
13 due-process claim, the characteristics Defendants have identified regarding their ability to assert  
14 such claims are entirely irrelevant “to the factual and legal issues at the core” of the claims.  
15 What is relevant is whether the class members have “suffered the same injury,” and whether their  
16 claims “depend upon a common contention” that is “capable of classwide resolution . . . [such]  
17 that determination of its truth or falsity will resolve an issue . . . in one stroke.” *Wal-Mart Stores,*  
18 *Inc. v. Dukes*, 564 U.S. 338, 350 (2011); *Abdullah v. U.S. Sec. Assocs., Inc.*, 731 F.3d 952, 957  
19 (9th Cir. 2013). Those requirements are met here because all class members suffered the same  
20 injury, having been part of a mass denial of Vienna Lautenberg-Specter refugee applications that  
21 were denied “as a matter of discretion,” and all present the same issue of law, whether those  
22 denials violated the Lautenberg Amendment. Class Mot. at 15. This Court should therefore find  
23 that that there are questions of law and fact common to the class and that the commonality  
24 requirement of Rule 23(a)(2) is satisfied.

25                                   **3.       Plaintiffs’ Claims are Typical of the Class**

26                   Defendants’ argument against typicality is based on a misunderstanding of Plaintiffs’  
27 claims. In their Opposition, Defendants claim there is no typicality because Plaintiffs’ familial  
28 relationships are limited to parent-child while the proposed class includes members related to

1 each other in a range of other ways.<sup>3</sup> Opp. at 18-19. Defendants contend “the type of family  
 2 relationship has a profound effect on the justiciability of the proposed class members’ claims,”  
 3 and that Plaintiffs’ claims are thus atypical of the class. *Id* at 18.

4 While the nature of a familial relationship may affect the justiciability of Plaintiffs’ fifth  
 5 cause of action, which concerns violation of the Fifth Amendment liberty right, Plaintiffs do not  
 6 assert any such claim on behalf of the proposed class. *See* Compl. ¶¶ 92-94 (heading) (stating  
 7 claim is “On Behalf of Does 1 and 2”). Instead, Plaintiffs assert justiciable claims that depend  
 8 not on familial relationships, but on the fact that they made Vienna Lautenberg-Specter program  
 9 applications that the Defendants denied “as a matter of discretion.” Plaintiffs’ claims are typical  
 10 of those of the class, because they seek the exact same relief from the exact same injury as the  
 11 absent class members. *Rodriguez v. Hayes*, 591 F.3d 1105, 1124 (9th Cir. 2010) (finding  
 12 typicality satisfied where named Plaintiffs’ claims are “reasonably co-extensive with those of the  
 13 absent class members”); *Garcia v. Johnson*, No. 14-CV-01775-YGR, 2014 WL6657591, at \* 14  
 14 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 21, 2014) (finding the named plaintiffs’ claims typical of the claims of the  
 15 proposed class when plaintiffs “seek relief identical to that which the members of the proposed  
 16 class would seek”). Thus, the typicality requirement under Rule 23(a) is satisfied.

#### 17 **4. Plaintiffs Adequately Represent the Class**

18 Here, again, Defendants try to recycle their irrelevant “justiciability” arguments as an  
 19 argument on adequacy of representation. Defendants acknowledge that Rule 23(a)(4) involves a  
 20 two-part inquiry: (1) whether Plaintiffs and counsel have any conflicts of interest with class  
 21 members; and (2) whether Plaintiffs and counsel will prosecute the action vigorously on behalf  
 22 of the class. Opp. at 19:6-8.

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24 <sup>3</sup>The proposed class definition limits the U.S. based sponsors to “U.S.-based Close Family  
 25 Members” only to ensure all class members have Article III and statutory standing. The U.S.-  
 26 based Close Family Members’ standing is based in part on their injury as sponsors for the refugee  
 27 applicants who submitted the refugee applications as well as in part on prolonged separation  
 28 from family members without lawful justification and the principle of family integrity, both of  
 which require a familial connection of the types identified in the class definition. *See* Class Mot.  
 at 9-11; *see also Hawai’i v. Trump*, 871 F.3d 646, 658-59 (9th Cir. 2017) (holding that persons in  
 the United States are harmed by separation from individuals with whom they have these types of  
 familial relationships).

1 As to the first inquiry, Defendants do not contest and, therefore, concede that Plaintiffs  
2 and counsel have no conflicts of interest with the class. *Ramirez*, 941 F. Supp. 2d at 1210 n.7.

3 As to the second, Defendants do not contest that Plaintiffs’ counsel are experienced and  
4 capable of vigorously representing the class. Instead, Defendants return to their same  
5 justiciability and typicality arguments to claim that Plaintiffs will not adequately represent the  
6 proposed class as they “do not present a justiciable controversy” and “the proposed class  
7 represents a wide range of familial relationships that largely are not reflected by” Plaintiffs.  
8 *Opp.* at 19:22, 20:3-4. But, Plaintiffs do in fact assert justiciable claims, *see supra* Part II.A, and  
9 the nature of the familial relationships is not relevant to the determination of the actual claims  
10 that Plaintiffs assert.

11 Thus, it is undisputed that Plaintiffs and counsel have no conflict of interest with other  
12 class members and there is no reason to believe Plaintiffs, supported by experienced counsel,  
13 will not vigorously represent the class. The class should be certified.

14 **C. The Proposed Class is Properly Defined and Ascertainable**

15 Plaintiffs’ class definition is precise and allows for easy identification of class members.  
16 Defendants’ Opposition claims that the class definition is “imprecise” because “the denials that  
17 USCIS issued indicated a ‘review of all information concerning your case including your  
18 testimony [and other applicant-specific supporting materials]’ resulted in denial ‘as a matter of  
19 discretion’” and thus, according to Defendants, “fails to account for the individual review that  
20 USCIS indicates it conducted as to *each* denied application under the Lautenberg Amendment.”  
21 *Opp.* at 20:17-21. Defendants’ ascertainability argument boils down to a complaint that  
22 “Plaintiffs do not accurately describe the nature of the admission denials at issue here.” *Opp.* at  
23 20:16-17. This is yet an impermissible merits argument that fails for multiple reasons. *See*  
24 *Amgen*, 568 U.S. at 465-66.

25 *First*, while ascertainability is not an explicit requirement under Rule 23, courts within  
26 the Ninth Circuit have stated that a “class definition must be ‘clear in its applicability so that it  
27 will be clear later on whose rights are merged into the judgment, that is, who gets the benefit of  
28 any relief and who gets the burden of any loss.’” *I.B. by and through Bohannon v. Facebook*,

1 *Inc.*, 82 F. Supp. 3d 1115, 1126 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (Freeman, J.) (quoting *Xavier v. Philip Morris*  
2 *USA Inc.*, 787 F. Supp. 2d 1075, 1089 (N.D. Cal. 2011). Despite “fail[ing] to account for the  
3 individual review,” the proposed class plainly is “clear in its applicability” because Defendants  
4 have already identified the “56 Iranian refugee applicants and their 31 family members in  
5 Vienna” who received denials, (Opp. at 5:2), and it is a simple matter to identify their U.S. ties  
6 who fit within the Close Family Member definition.

7 *Second*, even if this Court were to entertain Defendants’ merits objection, whether or not  
8 the proposed class members’ applications were subjected to individualized review is irrelevant.  
9 What matters is that all class members received the same verbatim response, as that is the basis  
10 of the claims. As such, the proposed class is properly defined as requiring the member to have  
11 received that response, in addition to other requirements, in order to be a class member:

12 All Iranian refugees who (1) applied for refugee admission to the  
13 United States under the Lautenberg Amendment, whether as a  
14 principal applicant or derivative relatives; (2) traveled to Vienna,  
15 Austria, for processing; and (3) received denials from the United  
16 States government in or after February 2018 with the sole  
17 explanation that their application was denied “*as a matter of*  
18 *discretion*,” and their U.S.-based Close Family Members who  
19 served as their U.S. ties.

20 Having provided Plaintiffs with identical denials and no way of differentiating between  
21 themselves, Defendants cannot legitimately claim that Plaintiffs should nevertheless be treated  
22 differently.

23 *Finally*, if the Court is inclined to entertain Defendants’ objection to the class definition,  
24 rather than declining to certify the class the Court should modify the third part of the proposed  
25 definition to include the full language repeated in all of the denials sent to class members: “and  
26 (3) received denials from the United States government in or after February 2018 with the sole  
27 explanation that ‘[a]fter review of all the information concerning your case, including your  
28 testimony, supporting documentation, background checks, country conditions, and other  
available information, your application for refugee resettlement to the United States under INA §  
207 has been denied as a matter of discretion.” Declaration of Jane Doe 3 (ECF 67), Ex. A;  
Declaration of Jane Doe 4 (ECF 68), Ex. A; Declaration of Jane Doe 5 (ECF 69), Ex. A. It is

1 within this Court's discretion to certify a modified class definition. *Abante Rooter and*  
2 *Plumbing, Inc. v. Alarm.com Inc.*, No. 15-CV-06314-YGR, 2018 WL 558844, at \*2 (N.D. Cal.  
3 Jan. 25, 2018).

4 As demonstrated by Defendants' ready identification of the individuals who received the  
5 denials at issue, the proposed class is properly defined and ascertainable. Defendants'  
6 ascertainability argument is an impermissible merits argument, which can be easily addressed,  
7 and should not be an obstacle to class certification.

8 **D. The Proposed Class Satisfies the Requirements of Rule 23(b)(2)**

9 In a last effort to avoid class certification, Defendants argue that the proposed class  
10 cannot meet the requirements of Rule 23(b)(2) but then recycle the same three justiciability,  
11 ascertainability, and typicality arguments that: (1) "the named Plaintiffs do not present this  
12 Court with a justiciable controversy in light of the nonreviewability doctrine barring review of  
13 their claims"; (2) "the class is overbroad"; and (3) "there are far too many factual and legal  
14 variations among proposed class members and the named Plaintiffs." *Opp.* at 21:9-13. As  
15 detailed above, each of these arguments fail.

16 It is beyond doubt that Defendants "acted or refused to act on grounds that apply  
17 generally to the class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is  
18 appropriate respecting the class a whole," when they denied all proposed class members'  
19 applications "as a matter of discretion." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). Again, Defendants'  
20 Opposition does not contest this. Accordingly, Plaintiffs' claims for declaratory and mandamus  
21 relief apply equally to all proposed class members, and the requirements of Rule 23(b)(2) are  
22 satisfied here. *Parson v. Ryan*, 754 F.3d 657, 688 (9th Cir. 2014) (the requirements of Rule  
23 23(b)(2) "are unquestionably satisfied when members of a putative class seek uniform injunctive  
24 or declaratory relief from policies or practices that are generally applicable to the class as a  
25 whole.").

26  
27  
28

1 **III. CONCLUSION**

2 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant this Motion  
3 and certify the proposed class, appoint the named Plaintiffs as Class Representatives, and appoint  
4 undersigned counsel to represent the class.

5 Dated: June 11, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

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