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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE

MARISELA MEZA, individually, and on behalf
of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

ARGUS MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC, a
California Limited Liability Company;
PROHEALTH PARTNERS, A MEDICAL
GROUP, INC., a California corporation; ARGUS
MEDICAL MANAGEMENT, LLC, an unknown
entity; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 21STCV31612

CLASS ACTION

*[Assigned for all purposes to: Hon. Yvette M.
Palazuelos, Dept. 9]*

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS
ACTION SETTLEMENT**

*[Filed with Notice of Motion and Motion,
Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the
Declaration of Justin F. Marquez, and the
Declaration of Marisela Meza]*

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL HEARING

Date: November 21, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dept: 9

Complaint filed: August 26, 2021

Trial date: Not set

1 The Court has before it Plaintiff Marisela Meza's ("Plaintiff") Motion for Preliminary
2 Approval of Class Action Settlement. Having reviewed the Motion for Preliminary Approval
3 of Class Action Settlement, the Declaration of Justin F. Marquez, the Class Action and PAGA
4 Settlement Agreement and Class Notice (which is referred to here as the "Settlement
5 Agreement"), and good cause appearing, the Court hereby finds and orders as follows:

6 1. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that the Settlement Agreement appears to
7 be fair, adequate, and reasonable and therefore meets the requirements for preliminary approval.
8 The Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the Settlement Class based upon
9 the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement between Plaintiff Marisela Meza and Defendants
10 Argus Management Company, LLC and ProHealth Partners, a Medical Group, Inc. (collectively,
11 "Defendants"), attached to the Declaration of Justin F. Marquez in Support of Plaintiff's Motion
12 for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement as Exhibit 1.

13 2. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness of a settlement which
14 could ultimately be given final approval by this Court, and appears to be presumptively valid,
15 subject only to any objections that may be raised at the Final Approval Hearing and final
16 approval by this Court. The Court notes that Defendants have agreed to create a common fund
17 of \$1,750,000 to cover (a) settlement payments to class members who do not validly opt out;
18 (b) a \$50,000.00 payment to the State of California, Labor & Workforce Development Agency
19 for its share of the settlement of claims for penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act,
20 with 75% of which (\$37,500.00) will be paid to the LWDA and 25% (\$12,500.00) will be paid
21 to eligible Aggrieved Employees; (c) Class Representative service payment of up to \$10,000.00
22 for Plaintiff Marisela Meza; (d) Class Counsel's attorneys' fees, not to exceed 33 1/3% of the
23 Gross Settlement Amount (\$583,333.33), and up to \$25,000.00 in costs for actual litigation
24 expenses incurred by Class Counsel; and (e) Settlement Administration Costs of up to
25 \$20,000.00.

26 3. The Court preliminarily finds that the terms of the Settlement appear to be within
27 the range of possible approval, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 and
28 applicable law. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that: (1) the settlement amount is fair

1 and reasonable to the class members when balanced against the probable outcome of further
2 litigation relating to class certification, liability and damages issues, and potential appeals; (2)
3 significant informal discovery, investigation, research, and litigation have been conducted such
4 that counsel for the parties at this time are able to reasonably evaluate their respective positions;
5 (3) settlement at this time will avoid substantial costs, delay, and risks that would be presented
6 by the further prosecution of the litigation; and (4) the proposed settlement has been reached as
7 the result of intensive, serious, and non-collusive negotiations between the Parties with the
8 assistance of a well-respected class action mediator. Accordingly, the Court preliminarily finds
9 that the Settlement Agreement was entered into in good faith.

10 4. A final fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed settlement,
11 attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, payment to the State of California, Labor &
12 Workforce Development Agency for its share of the settlement of claims for penalties under the
13 Private Attorneys General Act, and the class representative's enhancement award should be
14 finally approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as to the members of the class is hereby set in
15 accordance with the Implementation Schedule set forth below.

16 5. The Court provisionally certifies for settlement purposes only the following class
17 (the "Settlement Class"): "all persons employed by Defendants in California and classified as a
18 non-exempt or hourly-paid employee who worked for Defendants during the Class Period."

19 6. "Class Period" means the period from August 26, 2017 to March 23, 2023.

20 7. The Court finds, for settlement purposes only, that the Settlement Class meets the
21 requirements for certification under California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 in that: (1) the
22 Settlement Class Members are so numerous that joinder is impractical; (2) there are questions
23 of law and fact that are common, or of general interest, to all Settlement Class Members, which
24 predominate over individual issues; (3) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the
25 Settlement Class Members; (4) Plaintiff and Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect
26 the interests of the Settlement Class Members; and (5) a class action is superior to other
27 available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

28 8. The Court appoints as Class Representative, for settlement purposes only,

Plaintiff Marisela Meza. The Court further preliminarily approves Plaintiff's ability to request an incentive award up to \$10,000.00.

9. The Court appoints, for settlement purposes only, Justin F. Marquez, Benjamin H. Haber, and Arrash T. Fattahi of Wilshire Law Firm, PLC as Class Counsel. The Court further preliminarily approves Class Counsel's ability to request attorneys' fees of up to one-third of the Total Settlement Amount (\$583,333.33), and costs not to exceed \$25,000.00.

10. The Court appoints Apex Class Action as the Settlement Administrator with reasonable administration costs estimated not to exceed \$20,000.00.

11. The Court approves, as to form and content the Class Notice, attached to the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds on a preliminary basis that plan for distribution of the Notice to Settlement Class Members satisfies due process, provides the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

12. The parties are ordered to carry out the Settlement according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

13. Any class member who does not timely and validly request exclusion from the settlement may object to the Settlement Agreement.

14. The Court orders the following Implementation Schedule:

Defendants to provide Class List to the Settlement Administrator	December 12, 2023
Settlement Administrator to mail the Notice Packets	December 26, 2023
Response Deadline	February 9, 2024
Deadline to Respond to Objections	February 9, 2024
Deadline for Administrator to Submit Report	February 23, 2024

Deadline to file Motion for Final Approval, Request for Attorney's Fees and Costs, and Service Award to Plaintiff	March 1, 2024
Final Approval Hearing	March 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

15. The Court further ORDERS that, pending further order of this Court, all proceedings in this lawsuit, except those contemplated herein and in the settlement, are stayed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE:

Hon. Yvette M. Palazuelos
Los Angeles County Superior Court

Meza v. Argus Management Company, LLC, et al.
21STCV31612

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PROOF OF SERVICE