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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
OAKLAND DIVISION

MARA BERTON, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

AETNA INC. and AETNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendants.

Case No. 4:23-cv-01849-HSG

**JOINT STIPULATION  
REQUESTING EXTENSION OF  
DEADLINES SET IN NOVEMBER  
26, 2024 AMENDED SCHEDULING  
ORDER**

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25 *Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Putative Class*

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1 Counsel for the parties to the above-entitled action have met and conferred regarding  
2 the proposed changes to the case schedule set forth herein. Pursuant to Civil Local Rules 6-2  
3 and 7-12 and the Court’s Standing Order for Civil Cases, Plaintiff Mara Berton (“Plaintiff”)  
4 and Defendants Aetna, Inc. and Aetna Life Insurance Company (“Aetna” or “Defendants”)  
5 (collectively, the “Parties”), by and through their attorneys of record herein, submit the  
6 following Joint Stipulation and Request for Extension of Deadlines Set in the Court’s  
7 November 26, 2024 Amended Scheduling Order, ECF No. 104:

8 WHEREAS, on October 30, 2024, the Parties attended a full-day mediation with Hon.  
9 Steven M. Gold, a respected and well-known mediator with extensive experience mediating  
10 class actions, who successfully mediated a class settlement in a related case against Defendant  
11 Aetna Life Insurance Company involving a New York-only class, *Goidel et al. v. Aetna Life*  
12 *Ins. Co.*, Case No. 1:21-cv-07619-VSB-VF, ECF No. 98 (granting preliminary approval);

13 WHEREAS, the mediation was fruitful, and the Parties have continued to be engaged in  
14 good faith settlement discussions in the months since the first mediation;

15 WHEREAS, the Parties have been diligently and cooperatively working with one  
16 another to prioritize discovery relevant to their mediation efforts;

17 WHEREAS, the Parties attended a second full-day mediation with Hon. Steven M.  
18 Gold on February 18, 2025, and made considerable additional progress toward settlement,  
19 including by reaching tentative agreement as to injunctive relief, subject to agreement on  
20 monetary relief;

21 WHEREAS, the Parties need additional time to gather necessary data, and to continue  
22 settlement discussions about monetary relief;

23 WHEREAS, the Parties have scheduled a third and final mediation session with Hon.  
24 Steven M. Gold on March 4, 2025, and mutually hope to reach a final agreement as to all  
25 material terms on that day;

1 WHEREAS, to enable the Parties to allocate the necessary time and resources to  
 2 continued settlement discussions, and to preparing for this final day of mediation, the Parties  
 3 agree that a ninety-day extension of all existing case deadlines is necessary and appropriate;

4 WHEREAS, the Parties previously requested an extension of these deadlines, which the  
 5 Court granted on November 26, 2024;

6 THE PARTIES THEREFORE stipulate and jointly respectfully request that the  
 7 deadlines set forth in the Court’s November 26, 2024, Scheduling Order (ECF No. 104) be  
 8 extended for good cause as follows:

Event	Previous Deadline	Stipulated Deadline
Deadline to file motion for class certification	April 14, 2025	July 14, 2025
Deadline to file opposition to motion for class certification	May 27, 2025	August 26, 2025
Deadline to file reply in support of motion for class certification	June 16, 2025	September 16, 2025
Hearing on motion for class certification	July 14, 2025 at 2:00 pm	October 16, 2025 at 2:00 pm

17 Respectfully submitted,

18 **KATZ BANKS KUMIN LLP**

19  
 20 DATED: February 25, 2025 /s/ Rebecca Peterson-Fisher

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27 *Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Putative Class*

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**MAYNARD NEXSEN LLP**

DATED: February 25, 2025

/s/ Earl B. Austin

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*Attorneys for Defendants Aetna Inc. and Aetna Life Insurance Inc.*

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

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HON. HAYWOOD S. GILLIAM, JR.  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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**SIGNATURE ATTESTATION**

Pursuant to Local Rule 5-1(i)(3) regarding signatures, I, Rebecca Peterson-Fisher, hereby attest that concurrence in the filing of this document has been obtained from the other signatory to this document.

/s/ Rebecca Peterson-Fisher  
Rebecca Peterson-Fisher

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA,  
OAKLAND DIVISION

MARA BERTON, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

AETNA INC. and AETNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendants.

Case No. 4:23-cv-01849-HSG

**DECLARATION OF REBECCA PETERSON-FISHER IN SUPPORT OF JOINT STIPULATION REQUESTING EXTENSION OF DEADLINES SET IN NOVEMBER 26, 2024 AMENDED SCHEDULING ORDER**

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**DECLARATION OF REBECCA PETERSON-FISHER**

I, Rebecca Peterson-Fisher, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney at the law firm of Katz Banks Kumin LLP, counsel of record for Plaintiff Mara Berton and the putative class in this action. I submit this declaration in support of the Joint Stipulation Requesting Extension of Deadlines Set in November 26, 2024 Amended Scheduling Order pursuant to Civil Local Rules 6-2 and 7-12 and the Court’s Standing Order for Civil Cases. I am fully familiar, based on personal knowledge, with the facts set forth in this declaration and if called as a witness in this action, I could and would testify competently to these facts.

2. On October 30, 2024, Plaintiff Mara Berton (“Plaintiff”) and Defendants Aetna, Inc. and Aetna Life Insurance Company (“Aetna” or “Defendants”) (collectively, the “Parties”) attended a full-day mediation with Hon. Steven M. Gold, a former United States Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of New York and a respected and well-known mediator with extensive experience mediating class actions, who successfully mediated a class settlement in a related case against Defendant Aetna Life Insurance Company involving a New York-only class, *Goidel et al. v. Aetna Life Ins. Co.*, Case No. 1:21-cv-07619-VSB-VF, ECF No. 98 (granting preliminary approval).

3. The mediation was fruitful, and the Parties have continued to be engaged in good faith settlement discussions in the months since the first mediation.

4. The Parties have been diligently and cooperatively working with one another to prioritize discovery relevant to their mediation efforts in the months since the first mediation.

5. On February 18, 2025, the Parties attended a second full-day mediation with Hon. Steven M. Gold, and made considerable additional progress toward settlement, including by reaching tentative agreement as to injunctive relief.

6. At the end of the mediation, the Parties determined that they need additional time to gather necessary data, and to continue settlement discussions about monetary relief.

1           7.       The Parties have scheduled a third and final mediation session with Hon. Steven  
2 M. Gold in less than two weeks, on March 4, 2025, and mutually hope to reach a final  
3 agreement as to both injunctive and monetary relief on that day.

4           8.       To enable the Parties to allocate the necessary time and resources to continued  
5 settlement discussions, and to preparing for this final day of mediation, the Parties have agreed  
6 that a ninety-day extension of all existing case deadlines is necessary and appropriate.

7           9.       The Parties previously requested one extension of these deadlines, which the  
8 Court granted on November 26, 2024. ECF No. 104.

9  
10           I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the  
11 United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 25th day of February, 2025 in  
12 San Francisco, California.

13  
14 Dated: February 25, 2025

**KATZ BANKS KUMIN LLP**



Rebecca Peterson-Fisher  
Attorney for Plaintiff