



1 Under the compelling reasons standard, “a court may seal records only when it  
2 finds ‘a compelling reason and articulate[s] the factual basis for its ruling, without relying  
3 on hypothesis or conjecture.’” *United States v. Carpenter*, 923 F.3d 1172, 1179 (9th Cir.  
4 2019) (quoting *Ctr. for Auto Safety*, 809 F.3d at 1096-97) (alteration in original). Finding  
5 a compelling reason is “best left to the sound discretion” of the Court. *Ctr. for Auto Safety*,  
6 809 F.3d at 1097 (quoting *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 599 (1978)).

7 This Court, and others within the Ninth Circuit, have recognized that the need to  
8 protect medical privacy qualifies as a “compelling reason” for sealing records, since  
9 medical records contain sensitive and private information about a person’s health. See,  
10 e.g., *Spahr v. Med. Dir. Ely State Prison*, No. 3:19-CV-0267-MMD-CLB, 2020 WL 137459,  
11 at \*2 (D. Nev. Jan. 10, 2020); *Sapp v. Ada Cnty. Med. Dep’t*, No. 1:15-CV-00594-BLW,  
12 2018 WL 3613978, at \*6 (D. Idaho July 27, 2018); *Karpenski v. Am. Gen. Life Companies*,  
13 *LLC*, No. 2:12-CV-01569RSM, 2013 WL 5588312, at \*1 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 9, 2013). While  
14 certain aspects of a party’s medical condition may be at issue in certain types of actions,  
15 that does not mean that all medical records filed in connection with a motion (which often  
16 contain unrelated medical information) must be broadcast to the public. In other words,  
17 the party’s interest in keeping sensitive health information confidential outweighs the  
18 public’s need for direct access to the medical records.

19  
20 Here, the referenced exhibit contains Plaintiff’s sensitive health information,  
21 medical history, and treatment records. Balancing the need for the public’s access to  
22 information regarding Plaintiff’s medical history, treatment, and condition against the need  
23 to maintain the confidentiality of these medical records weighs in favor of sealing these  
24 exhibits. Therefore, Defendants’ motion to seal, (ECF No. 29), is **GRANTED**.

25 **DATED:** March 5, 2025

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UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE