



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Solicitor General Division

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April 17, 2020

Honorable Scott S. Harris
Clerk of the Supreme Court
Supreme Court of the United States
1 First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20543

RE: *Njonge v. Gilbert*, No. 19-7426

Dear Mr. Harris:

I am counsel of record for Respondent Margaret Gilbert in the above-captioned case. A response to the cert petition, requested by the Court, is currently due May 15, 2020. That date reflects an extension granted March 12, 2020.

Pursuant to Rule 30.4, Superintendent Gilbert requests an additional 31-day extension to file a brief in opposition, to June 15, 2020. Counsel for petitioner Njonge does not object to the continuance.

This request for additional time is made in part to accommodate other deadlines, particularly the oral argument in *Chiafalo v. Washington*, No. 19-465, recently rescheduled for May 13, 2020. The State's small team of attorneys that work on U.S. Supreme Court matters will be extremely busy preparing for that argument. The State will also be filing a response to the Motion for Leave to File Bill of Complaint in *States of Montana and Wyoming v. State of Washington*, No. 22O152, currently due May 8, 2020, and a brief in opposition in *Danielson v. Inslee*, No. 19-1130, currently due May 15, 2020, and *Living Essentials, LLC v. Washington*, No. 19-988, currently due May 29, 2020.

The COVID-19 outbreak has also placed additional and urgent advice and litigation responsibilities on our office, with a disproportionate percentage falling to our small Solicitor General Division. The challenges have been magnified by the additional logistical difficulties of having to operate under stay-at-home orders since March 16, 2020—and for those with young children, the closure of schools and daycares. Counsel assigned to the brief in opposition in this case are also working extensively on emergency state supreme court proceedings in which the release of thousands of incarcerated individuals is sought. Additional emergency litigation and client advice is expected, which will also demand immediate attention.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

s/ Peter Gonick

Peter Gonick
Deputy Solicitor General
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cc: Michael Filipovic, Counsel of Record for Petitioner