



ATTORNEY GENERAL  
**LESLIE RUTLEDGE**  

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September 9, 2020

Scott S. Harris  
Clerk  
Supreme Court of the United States  
One First Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20543

Re: *Gardner v. Arkansas*, No. 20-5517 \*\*\*CAPITAL CASE\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Harris:

I write on behalf of respondent to request a 45-day extension of the September 28, 2020 deadline for filing a response to the petition for a writ of certiorari in this matter. With this extension, the response would be due on November 12, 2020.

A 45-day extension is reasonable and necessary. The Solicitor General Unit of the Arkansas Attorney General's Office has primary responsibility for drafting briefs in opposition in this Court. The Unit only recently assumed responsibility for this matter and will require additional time to become sufficiently familiar with the issues and proceedings below to prepare a response. Additionally, that Unit is responsible for a number of other matters, including oral argument before this Court in *Rutledge v. Pharmaceutical Care Management Association*, No. 18-540, on October 6, and preparation of responses to petitions for a writ of certiorari in *Whiteside v. Arkansas*, No. 19-8668 (due November 20), *Johnson v. Arkansas*, No. 20-48 (due September 18), and *Reid v. Arkansas*, No. 19-8331 (due September 10). The Unit is also preparing for an oral argument before the Eighth Circuit on September 23 and is devoting significant resources to emergency litigation related to the upcoming election and the COVID-19 pandemic in Arkansas.

Petitioner does not oppose this request.

For these reasons, respondent respectfully requests that the Court grant an extension of the response deadline.

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Sincerely,

*/s/ Michael A. Cantrell*

Michael A. Cantrell  
Assistant Solicitor General

cc: Teri Lisa Chambers, Teri.Chambers@arkansas.gov, *Counsel for Petitioner*