



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

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January 14, 2021

The Honorable Scott S. Harris
Clerk of the Court
Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: *Elim Romanian Pentecostal Church, et al. v. Pritzker*, No. 20-569

Dear Mr. Harris:

On November 30, 2020, this Court directed Respondent Governor JB Pritzker to respond to the petition for a writ of certiorari in the above-captioned case. Petitioners challenge a restriction on the size of indoor, in-person religious gatherings that respondent adopted in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and that has not been in effect since May 29, 2020.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit affirmed the denial of petitioners' request to preliminarily enjoin the enforcement of the expired restriction on June 16, 2020. *Elim Romanian Pentecostal Church v. Pritzker*, 962 F.3d 341 (7th Cir. 2020). More than four months later (and nearly three months after the Seventh Circuit denied petitioners' petition for rehearing en banc), on October 22, 2020, petitioners filed a petition for a writ of certiorari of that decision.

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 30.4, respondent respectfully requests a 30-day of extension of time, from January 29 to March 1, 2021, to file his response.* This is respondent's second and final request for an extension of time. The Court granted respondent's first request, for a 30-day extension of time from December 30, 2020, to January 29, 2021, on December 16, 2020. Counsel for petitioners oppose this request.

The extension requested by respondent is necessary due to current and recent work responsibilities held by Assistant Attorney General Priyanka Gupta, who is

* Thirty days from January 29, 2021, is Sunday, February 29, 2021, so the brief would be due the next day on Monday, March 1, 2021. *See* Sup. Ct. R. 30.1.

drafting respondent's brief in opposition under my supervision. Specifically, in January 2021, Ms. Gupta filed a motion to stay and a docketing statement in *Indiana Rail Road v. Illinois Commerce Commission*, Nos. 20-3129, 21-1024 (consol.) (7th Cir.). On January 22, 2021, she will present oral argument in *Holmes v. Godinez*, Nos. 20-2236, 20-2709 (consol.) (7th Cir.). And on January 25, 2021, she will file a response brief in *Khungar v. Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation*, No. 1-20-0077 (Ill. App. Ct.), which is due on a final extension of time.

Moreover, my work responsibilities also merit an extension. As the Solicitor General of Illinois, I devote substantial time to performing supervisory and administrative duties, including editing briefs in numerous appeals and helping attorneys prepare for oral argument. That includes supervising and editing the brief in opposition in *Taylor v. Illinois*, No. 20-5344 (U.S.), which was filed on January 10, 2021, and for which I am counsel of record.

This request for an extension of time is not made for purposes of delay, but solely to ensure that respondent's interests are adequately protected. Moreover, because the restriction on the size of religious gatherings at issue in this matter expired on May 29, 2020, and has not been renewed, nor has respondent adopted any other analogous restriction, granting this request will not prejudice petitioners. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jane Elinor Notz
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