

November 23, 2021

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

Re: Dr. A v. Hochul, No. 21A145

Dear Mr. Harris:

Last week, Applicants informed the Court that New York had just announced a deadline of November 22 to cancel religious exemptions for healthcare workers. Reply 11. Below is a brief factual update:

First, there are already reports of many healthcare workers who had previously been accommodated and are now being fired or suspended in response to the deadline, at times causing facilities to close.<sup>1</sup>

Second, I have been informed by my clients and can represent to the Court that, as of midnight last night, 16 of 17 Applicants have either been terminated by their employers or suspended pending termination within days, with all previously granted religious exemptions having been revoked. One Applicant, Nurse A, accepted a shot in order to keep her job.

We respectfully request that you distribute this letter to the Justices.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Brejcha

Counsel of Record for Applicants

cc: Barbara D. Underwood

Counsel of Record for Respondent

Covid-19 News: Nurse Shortage Forces Long Island Emergency Room to Close, N.Y. Times (Nov. 22, 2021), <a href="https://perma.cc/STS6-FFG3">https://perma.cc/STS6-FFG3</a>; see also John Asbury, Mount Sinai closes Long Beach ER due to shortage of vaccinated nurses, officials say, Newsday (Nov. 22, 2021), <a href="https://perma.cc/WP5K-FTWZ">https://perma.cc/WP5K-FTWZ</a>; James T. Mulder, Syracuse hospital fires 45 workers for refusing to get state-mandated Covid vaccination, Syracuse.com (Nov. 22, 2021), <a href="https://perma.cc/S6BE-FTV5">https://perma.cc/S6BE-FTV5</a>; Health systems lose workers with no religious exemption to vaccine rule, WNYT (Nov. 22, 2021), <a href="https://perma.cc/5NWH-KBXR">https://perma.cc/5NWH-KBXR</a>.