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December 27, 2021

Clerk Supreme Court of the United States 1 First Street, NE Washington, D.C. 20002

RE 21-674: NORTH CAROLINA STATE HEALTH PLAN FOR TEACHERS AND STATE EMPLOYEES V. MAXWELL KADEL, ET AL.

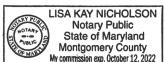
Dear Sir or Madam:

As required by Supreme Court Rule 33.1(h), I certify that the Respondent's Brief in Opposition referenced above contains **7,352** words, excluding the parts of the document that are exempted by Supreme Court Rule 33.1(d).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Sincerely,

Jack Suber, Esq. Principal



LISA KAY NICHOLSON | Sworn and subscribed before me this 27th day of December 2021.

Lisa K Nicholson