

No. 21-6941

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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TRACY VAUGHN, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI  
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES

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Petitioner contends (Pet. 11-16) that a district court considering a motion for a reduced sentence under Section 404(b) of the First Step Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-391, 132 Stat. 5222, must consider anew all of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. 3553(a). This Court has granted review in Concepcion v. United States, No. 20-1650 (argued Jan. 19, 2022), to address whether a district court considering a Section 404(b) motion is required to consider intervening legal and factual developments since the offender's original sentence, other than the amendments made by Sections 2 and 3 of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-220, 124 Stat. 2372. The decision in Concepcion could

conceivably bear on the question presented here. A petition for a writ of certiorari presenting the Section 3553(a) question should be denied if the record makes clear that the district court considered the Section 3553(a) factors in any event. See Bates v. United States, 142 S. Ct. 594 (2021) (No. 21-5348); Carter v. United States, 142 S. Ct. 594 (2021) (No. 21-5047). Here, however, petitioner's assertion (Pet. 9, 13-16) that the district court did not consider the Section 3553(a) factors in the manner that his preferred mandatory approach would require is best addressed, if necessary, on a remand. The petition for a writ of certiorari should therefore be held pending the decision in Concepcion and then disposed of as appropriate in light of that decision.\*

Respectfully submitted.

ELIZABETH B. PRELOGAR  
Solicitor General

MARCH 2022

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\* The government waives any further response to the petition unless this Court requests otherwise.