

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

FRANCIS NIELSEN,
Petitioner,

v.

KEKAI WATANABE,
Respondent.

**On Writ of Certiorari to the United States
Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit**

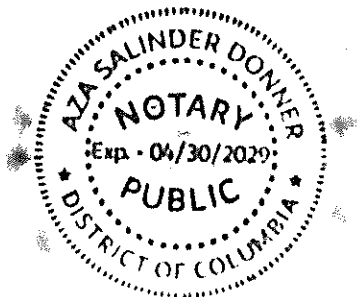
**BRIEF OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI
AND EIGHTEEN OTHER STATES AS
AMICUS CURIAE
IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONER**

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

As required by Supreme Court Rule 33.1(h), I certify that the document contains **2,459** 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.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of August 2026.





AZA SALINDER DONNER
NOTARY PUBLIC
District of Columbia
My commission expires April 30, 2029.