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**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL**  
**CRIMINAL APPEALS DIVISION**

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February 17, 2026

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**BY ELECTRONIC FILING**

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

RE: *Eva Marie Gardner v. Maryland*, Certiorari Petition No. 25-5961  
**Unopposed request for extension of time to file Brief in Opposition**

Dear Mr. Harris:

On October 22, 2025, Eva Marie Gardner filed a pro se petition for a writ of certiorari. On November 3, 2025, the State of Maryland, Respondent, filed a waiver of its right to respond to the petition. On November 12, 2025, the Court requested a response on or before December 12, 2025. On November 20, 2025, the Court granted Respondent's first request for an extension of time within which to file its response through January 26, 2026. On January 16, 2026, the Court granted Respondent's second request for an extension of time within which to file its response through February 25, 2026, because undersigned counsel was stricken with COVID-19 and influenza. Since the filing of the pro se petition, Mr. Peter A. Patterson of Cooper & Kirk, PLLC has appeared on the Court's docket as counsel of record for Ms. Gardner.

Following the Court's Rules 15.3 and 30.4, Respondent now respectfully requests a final 15-day extension of time within which to file its response through March 12, 2026. This extension is needed because, last week, a member of undersigned counsel's family was diagnosed with stage-4 pancreatic cancer, which has required undersigned counsel to dedicate time to his healthcare. As Respondent has stated previously, Ms. Gardner's petition (filed pro se at the time) raises Second Amendment claims that must be carefully

examined for precise identification, preservation in the state courts, and overall merit. Since Respondent's first request for an extension of time, five amicus curiae briefs have been filed with Court, including briefs from a group of 12 United States Senators, from 24 States, and from several public interest organizations. Responding to Ms. Gardner's petition will account for these amicus briefs, which purport to flesh out Ms. Gardner's contentions beyond the arguments in her pro se petition.

Ms. Gardner's counsel, Mr. Peter A. Patterson, does not oppose this extension request.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Daniel J. Jawor*

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