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February 19, 2026

Via ECF

The Honorable Scott S. Harris
Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20543

Re: *Roderick Leshun Rankin v. Dexter Payne*, No. 25-6683

Dear Mr. Harris:

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 30.4, Respondent Payne respectfully requests an extension of 30 days within which to file his brief in opposition to the petition for a writ of certiorari in *Roderick Leshun Rankin v. Dexter Payne*, No. 25-6683, making the new deadline April 1, 2026. The Court docketed the petition on January 22, 2026, following the extension of time that Petitioner Rankin received. The State's response is currently due on March 2, 2026.

This is the State's first request for an extension of time. The extension of time is needed in light of other deadlines and conflicts faced by the State's counsel of record, Autumn Hamit Patterson. During the briefing period, counsel has been involved in drafting an initial brief in *Flywheel Energy Production LLC v. York*, No. 25-2723 (8th Cir.), due on January 23, 2026; an initial brief in *League of Women Voters of Arkansas v. Jester*, No. 25-3389 (8th Cir.), due on January 29, 2026; and a reply brief due on February 13, 2026, in *NetChoice v. Griffin*, No. 25-1889 (8th Cir.),

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and has argued a motion to dismiss in *Faulkenberry v. Arkansas Department of Education*, No. 4:25-cv-00592, (E.D. Ark.), on February 17, 2026. Counsel also has several upcoming deadlines, including a reply brief in *Express Scripts, Inc. v. Richmond*, No. 25-2529 (8th Cir.), due on February 24, 2026, and supervisory obligations related to numerous state-court and district-court briefs and hearings.

The requested 30-day extension will not prejudice any party. Counsel for Petitioner Rankin confirmed that he does not oppose the extension.

Cc: Joseph W. Luby (Counsel for Petitioner)

Respectfully submitted,

/s Autumn Hamit Patterson

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