



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of the Solicitor General

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*Washington, D.C. 20530*

November 20, 2020

Honorable Scott S. Harris  
Clerk  
Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: Department of Homeland Security v. New York, No. 20-449

Dear Mr. Harris:

The petition for a writ of certiorari in the above-captioned case was filed on October 7, 2020. The responses are currently due, after one extension, on December 9, 2020. Respondents have sought a further extension of time to and including January 8, 2021 within which to file their responses. On behalf of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the other governmental petitioners, we write to express our opposition to any such further extension.

The district court entered the preliminary injunctions at issue in this case on October 11, 2019. See Pet. App. 121a, 158a. This Court entered a stay pending appeal of those injunctions on January 27, 2020, and directed that its stay would remain in effect “pending disposition of the Government’s appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and disposition of the Government’s petition for a writ of certiorari, if such writ is timely sought.” 140 S. Ct. 599, 599. On August 4, 2020, the court of appeals affirmed the district court’s preliminary injunctions. See Pet. App. 1a-90a.

The government filed its petition for a writ of certiorari well before it was due and early enough to ensure that even if respondents received a 30-day extension of the time for filing their response, the Court would still be able to consider the petition at its January 8, 2021 Conference and, if it granted the petition, hear argument in the case this Term. The government acted with expedition because of the significant uncertainty that the court of appeals’ decision has created about the status of the DHS rule at issue: notwithstanding this Court’s stay, the conflicting decisions about the rule’s validity from the Second, Fourth, Seventh, and Ninth Circuits, see Pet. 24-26, have created confusion that only a decision from this Court can resolve, and the government and the public have a strong interest in obtaining such resolution as quickly as possible.

Granting respondents’ requests for a further extension of time, however, would—absent a departure from this Court’s ordinary practices—prevent the Court from even considering the petition until at least its February 19, 2021 Conference, and would prevent the Court from hearing argument in the case until October Term 2021. No sound basis exists for such delay.

Respondents speculate that DHS may choose in the future to rescind the rule. Even if respondents' speculation about the agency's future actions were to prove true, however, the agency would need to go through notice-and-comment rulemaking again before making any final determination—a process that would itself likely be subject to further litigation. That just underscores why this Court should have the opportunity to address the current rule's validity, and the breadth of authority granted by the underlying statutory provisions, this Term. Respondents' request would, as a practical matter, deprive this Court of that choice.

Accordingly, the government respectfully requests that the Court grant no further extension of time within which to respond to the government's petition in this case.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey B. Wall  
Acting Solicitor General

cc: See Attached Service List

20-0449

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, ET AL.  
NEW YORK, ET AL.

BAHER AZMY  
CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS  
666 BROADWAY  
7TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10012  
212-614-6464  
BAZMY@CCRJUSTICE.ORG

JONATHAN H. HURWITZ  
PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON &  
GARRISON, LLP  
1285 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS  
NEW YORK, NY 10019-  
212-373-3254  
JHURWITZ@PAULWEISS.COM

CLARE E. KINDALL  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
10 FRANKLLIN SQUARE  
NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051  
860-827-2683  
CLARE.KINDALL@CT.GOV

GEORGIA MARY PESTANA  
INTERIM CORPORATION COUNSEL  
NEW YORK LAW DEPARTMENT  
100 CHURCH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
212-356-2400

JULIO A. THOMPSON  
ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL  
VERMONT OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL  
1711 BLISS ROAD  
EAST MONTPELIER,, VT 05651  
802-828-5519  
JULIO.THOMPSON@VERMONT.GOV

BARBARA DALE UNDERWOOD  
SOLICITOR GENERAL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE  
28 LIBERTY STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10005-1400  
212-416-6274  
BARBARA.UNDERWOOD@AG.NY.GOV