

JONES DAY

51 LOUISIANA AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001.2113
TELEPHONE: +1.202.879.3939 • FACSIMILE: +1.202.626.1700

Direct Number: (202) 879-3463
njfrancisco@JonesDay.com

November 16, 2015

Denise McNerney
Merits Cases Clerk
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: 14-1418) Zubik, et al. v. Burwell, Sec. of H&HS, et al.;
14-1453) Priests for Life, et al. v. Dept. of H&HS, et al.;
14-1505) Roman Catholic Archbishop v. Burwell, Sec. of H&HS, et al.;
15-35) E. TX Baptist Univ., et al. v. Burwell, Sec. of H&HS, et al.;
15-105) Little Sisters of the Poor, et al. v. Burwell, Sec. of H&HS, et al.;
15-119) Southern Nazarene Univ., et al. v. Burwell, Sec. of H&HS, et al.;
15-191) Geneva College v. Burwell, Sec. of H&HS, et al.

Dear Ms. McNerney:

The Court granted the petitions for writs of certiorari in the seven cases listed above on November 6, 2015, and directed the parties to submit a joint proposal for briefing on the merits to keep the number of briefs to a minimum and to avoid repetition of argument. The parties have conferred, and the following joint proposal is now submitted on behalf of all parties, including the Government.

First, the parties propose that the Petitioners submit two consolidated opening briefs. One opening brief will cover the Petitioners in *Zubik*, No. 14-1418; *Priests for Life*, No. 14-1453; and *Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington*, No. 14-1505. The other opening brief will cover the Petitioners in *East Texas Baptist University*, No. 15-35; *Little Sisters of the Poor*, No. 15-105; *Southern Nazarene University*, No. 15-119; and *Geneva College*, No. 15-191. The Government will submit one consolidated response brief. Each of the two groups of Petitioners will then submit a consolidated reply.

Second, the parties propose an extension of the word limit in each of the briefs. Specifically, Petitioners request 20,000 words for each of their consolidated opening briefs and 8,000 words for each of their consolidated reply briefs. The Government requests 22,500 words for its consolidated response.

Third, the parties propose an extension of the briefing schedule as follows:

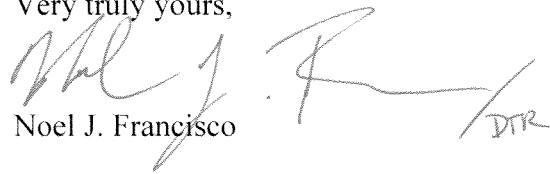
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Petitioners' opening briefs: 1/4/16
Respondents' brief: 2/10/16
Petitioners' reply briefs: 3/11/16

This schedule would allow for oral argument in either week of the March argument session.

Very truly yours,

Noel J. Francisco

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noel J. Francisco". To the right of the signature, there are initials "DTR" written in a smaller, slanted script.

cc: Mr. Paul Michael Pohl
Jones Day
500 Grant Street, Suite 4500
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Mr. Robert Joseph Muise
American Freedom Law Center
P.O. Box 131098
Ann Arbor, MI 48113

Mr. Paul D. Clement
Bancroft PLLC
500 New Jersey Avenue NW
Seventh Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. David A. Cortman
Alliance Defending Freedom
1000 Hurricane Shoals Road, N.E., Suite D-1100
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Mr. Donald B. Verrilli, Jr.
Solicitor General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001