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# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAI'I

STATE OF HAWAI'I and ISMAIL ELSHIKH,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, in his official capacity as President of the United States; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY; JOHN F. KELLY, in his official capacity as Secretary of Homeland Security; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE; REX TILLERSON, in his official capacity as Secretary of State; and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:17-cv-00050-DKW-KSC

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE BRIEF OF INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROJECT AND HIAS AS AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO ENFORCE OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TO MODIFY PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

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# INTEREST OF AMICI CURIAE AND REASONS WHY THE MOTION SHOULD BE GRANTED

The International Refugee Assistance Project ("IRAP") and HIAS (formerly known as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) respectfully move for leave to file an *amici curiae* brief in support of Plaintiffs' Motion to Clarify Scope of Preliminary Injunction.

A "district court has broad discretion to appoint amici curiae." *Hotowit v. Ray*, 682 F.2d 1237, 1260 (9th Cir. 1982), abrogated on other grounds by Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 472 (1995). "An amicus brief should normally be allowed when . . . the amicus has unique information or perspective that can help the court beyond the help that the lawyers for the parties are able to provide." Cty. Ass'n for Restoration of the Env. (CARE) v. DeRuyter Bros. Dairy, 54 Supp. 2d 974, 975 (E.D. Wash. 1999) (citing N. Sec. Co. U.S., 191 U.S. 555, 556 (1902)); see also In re Roxford Foods Litig., 790 F. Supp. 987, 997 (N.D. Cal. 1991) (stating that courts generally "have exercised great liberality in permitting an amicus curiae to file a brief in a pending case"). Here, IRAP and HIAS fulfill "the classic role of amicus curiae by assisting in a case of general public interest, supplementing the efforts of counsel, and drawing the court's attention to law that escaped consideration." Miller-Wohl Co. v. Comm'r of Labor & Indus., 694 F.2d 203, 204 (9th Cir. 1982).

Both IRAP and HIAS are intimately involved in the refugee resettlement process and have in-depth knowledge of the United States Resettlement Assistance

Program ("USRAP"). Founded in 2008, IRAP's mission is to provide and facilitate free legal services for vulnerable populations around the world, including refugees, who seek to escape persecution and find safety in the United states and other Western countries. IRAP lawyers provide legal assistance to refugees and other immigrants to the United States throughout the resettlement process, an effort that typically requires hundreds of hours of legal representation over the course of many years navigating USRAP. IRAP's client base includes refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, and Yemen.

HIAS was founded in 1881 as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society to assist Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and Eastern Europe. It is the world's oldest—and only Jewish—refugee resettlement agency, designated by the federal government to undertake this humanitarian work through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). HIAS is assigned clients via DOS's allocation process, which determines which refugee clients will be resettled by HIAS. Through its contracts with DOS and DHHS, HIAS is obligated to ensure that each refugee family is placed in a safe and stable environment and receives training and support to integrate into U.S. society and become financially self-sufficient. These obligations range from ensuring that each refugee family is picked up at the airport upon arrival with appropriate language

interpretation to making sure the refugee knows his or her address and how to make

a phone call.

Both IRAP and HIAS are plaintiffs in the related litigation challenging the

Executive Order at issue here and consolidated with this case for oral argument

before the Supreme Court. See Trump v. Int'l Refugee Assistance Project ("IRAP"),

Nos. 16-1436 et al., \_\_\_\_ S. Ct. \_\_\_\_, 2017 WL 2722580 (June 26, 2017). IRAP and

HIAS are intimately familiar with the consequences that the Executive Order and its

predecessor have had and continue to have on USRAP, their clients, and the many

of thousands of refugees seeking to enter the United States. IRAP and HIAS' amici

brief, attached hereto as Exhibit A, highlights the inadequacies of the government's

interpretation of the scope of the stay ordered by the Supreme Court on June 26,

2017.

**CONCLUSION** 

For the foregoing reasons, IRAP and HIAS respectfully request that the Court

grant its motion for leave to file the *amici curiae* brief attached hereto as Exhibit A.

DATED: Atlanta, Georgia, July 10, 2017.

/s/ Justin B. Cox

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