DECLARATION OF ANDRE WASHINGTON
(pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746)

I, Andre Washington, am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration.

I declare the following:

**Personal Background**

1. I have been living in Ohio since about 2000.

2. I joined the Toledo Chapter of the Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute (“Ohio APRI”) around 2004, after being introduced to the organization through the NAACP. I joined APRI and have continued to be a member because I share its goal of promoting political and social freedom and economic justice.

3. Shortly after joining, I became the Vice President of the Toledo Chapter.

4. Around 2007, I became involved with the Ohio APRI at the state level. From about 2007 to 2009, I served as the Vice President of Ohio APRI.

5. Since about 2009, I have served as the President of Ohio APRI.

6. Additionally, I am also currently the Midwest Regional Representative. In this capacity, I am a representative for eleven states.

**The Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute**

7. The Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute (“Ohio APRI”) is a state chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, a national organization for African-American trade unionists and community activists.

8. APRI was established in 1965 to forge an alliance between the civil rights and labor movements.

9. APRI is a senior constituency group of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (“AFL-CIO”).

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Exhibit N
10. Ohio APRI has eight chapters across the State of Ohio, including in Columbus, Cleveland, and Cincinnati, and has members throughout the state.

11. Ohio APRI’s mission includes supporting charitable ventures, such as feeding the hungry and providing clothing to those in need, and voter engagement, including voter outreach, voter education, and voter registration. The majority of APRI’s resources are dedicated to its voter engagement work.

12. Ohio APRI conducts get-out-the-vote activities in these low-registration neighborhoods, as well as in neighborhoods that have low voter turnout.

13. The neighborhoods in which Ohio APRI conducts its voter registration and engagement activities are predominantly black and low-income.

14. We go door-to-door and participate in community festivals and block parties to help register people.

15. We also post flyers and reach out to remind people of when and how they can vote.

16. Members of Ohio APRI spent several weeks registering Ohio voters prior to the deadline for registering to vote in the primary.

17. I am aware that the majority of registered Ohioans vote on Election Day.

18. Because the state unexpectedly ordered that polling places be closed on the eve of the election—in a move the state had not previously contemplated and that has never occurred in my time living in Ohio, many voters who planned on voting at their polling locations on March 17, 2020 were unable to cast a ballot as planned. This includes Ohio APRI members.

**H.B. 197 and Ohio’s 2020 Primary Election**

19. I am aware that Am. Sub. H.B. 197 (“H.B. 197”), which was passed by the Ohio
legislature last week, moves the primary election’s endpoint to April 28, 2020 and
requires all but a few categories of Ohio voters to vote by mail.

20. H.B. 197 establishes many obstacles to voting that will deprive people of their
fundamental right to vote.

21. It is my understanding that H.B. 197 establishes a multi-step process that must be
completed in the span of one month in order for individuals to have their ballots counted.
First, the legislation contemplates voters being sent a postcard informing them that they
can apply for an absentee ballot. Second, it requires voters to print an absentee ballot
application or otherwise obtain one, fill it out, place the application in an envelope with a
stamp, and send the application in to their county board of elections. Third, it requires the
county board of elections to process the application and mail the voter a ballot. And,
fourth, it requires the voter to complete the ballot and return it to the board, postmarking
it by April 27, 2020 or dropping it off at the board of elections prior to 7:30 p.m. on April

22. The process set out in H.B. 197 is prolonged if any part of the mail absentee ballot
application is considered deficient.

23. Many Ohio voters, including many of the people in the communities where Ohio APRI
focuses its efforts, are accustomed to voting in-person and may never have voted by mail
before. This increases the likelihood that an application may be deficient.

24. H.B. 197 does not seem to have built in enough time to allow voters to cure any
deficiencies with their application and still receive and cast a ballot prior to the
submission deadline.

25. Additionally, a number of Ohio APRI members and people in the communities we
register and serve lack access to a printer. There are also a number of our members, as well as people we register, who are older or otherwise considered at-risk if infected with COVID-19.

26. Requiring these individuals to go out to print applications for absentee ballots, and to obtain materials to mail the application in, forces them to place their health at risk.

27. Because so many steps requiring mail to be exchanged back-and-forth are involved in the process set out by H.B. 197, and because those steps must all be completed in approximate one month’s time, any delays could result in a person being denied their fundamental right to vote.

28. Further, because there has been so much confusion about the date of the election, voters may not be aware of timeline and process set forth in H.B. 197 until they receive a mailing from, or are otherwise contacted by, an election official.

29. Ohio APRI has been communicating to church congregations and through social media about changes in the 2020 primary election and informing voters about how they can request and cast an absentee ballot.

30. I am deeply concerned that the timeline and process for conducting the 2020 Primary Election set forth in H.B. 197 makes it so that the right to vote may we won or lost depending on whether a person (i) is familiar with the mail ballot application process, (ii) has a printer, paper, and postage at home, or (ii) experiences any mail delays.

31. H.B. 197 also prohibits any qualified Ohio voter who registered after February 18, 2020 from participating in the 2020 primary.

32. A number of the communities we conduct voter engagement and education activities in include individuals who rent and, therefore, move at higher rates. Extending the
registration date to 30 days before the close of polls is vitally important to ensure these
individuals and other Ohioans are able to participate in the 2020 Primary.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


Andre Washington