

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER Lt. Governor

# State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
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February 26, 2020

GURBIR S. GREWAL Attorney General

M<sub>ICHELLE</sub> M<sub>ILLER</sub>
Director

### Via ECF

Hon. Brian R. Martinotti, U.S.D.J. Clarkson S. Fisher Building & U.S. Courthouse 402 East State Street, Courtroom 1 Trenton, New Jersey 08608

Re: Americans For Prosperity v. Grewal, et al. Case No. 3:19-cv-14228-BRM-LHG

American Civil Liberties Union, et al. v. Grewal, et al. Case No. 3:19-cv-17807-BRM-LHG

Illinois Opportunity Project v. Holden, et al. Case No. 3:19-cv-17912-BRM-LHG

# Dear Judge Martinotti:

This office represents the Defendants in the above-captioned cases, which have been designated as related. The parties have resolved the <u>American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)</u> and <u>Illinois Opportunity Project (IOP)</u> cases in their entirety. The parties have agreed in those two cases to enter into consent orders that convert the pending preliminary injunctions into permanent injunctions against enforcement of the challenged statute (S150) against any "independent expenditure committee," as that term is used in the statute, or its employees or agents. The parties agree to bear their own legal fees and costs. These permanent injunctions will not be limited to the plaintiffs in <u>ACLU</u> and <u>IOP</u>, but will also permanently enjoin enforcement of the statute against others subject to its terms, including Americans

for Prosperity (AFP). Proposed Consent Orders memorializing these terms in the <u>ACLU</u> and <u>IOP</u> cases are attached for your consideration and execution.

The parties in the <u>AFP</u> case are currently discussing a resolution of that case along similar lines to the <u>ACLU</u> and <u>IOP</u> Consent Orders, including AFP's claim for legal fees. We have advised Judge Goodman of the status of the <u>AFP</u> case. A text order was issued yesterday by Judge Goodman in <u>AFP</u> requiring the parties to submit a joint status report to Judge Goodman, including a proposed schedule for any further proceedings, by March 6, 2020, if the parties are unable to resolve <u>AFP</u> in its entirety by that date. We do not believe that the pendency of the <u>AFP</u> matter precludes entry of final judgments in the ACLU and IOP matters.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

GURBIR S. GREWAL ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By: /s/ Stuart M. Feinblatt
Stuart M. Feinblatt
Assistant Attorney General

C: All counsel of record (via ECF)

GURBIR S. GREWAL ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY R.J. Hughes Justice Complex P.O. Box 112 Trenton, New Jersey 08625 Attorney for Defendants

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## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF NEW JERSEY, a New Jersey nonprofit corporation, and AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, INC., a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation,

Civil Action No. 19-cv-17807

Plaintiffs,

v.

GURBIR S. GREWAL, in his official capacity as Attorney General of New Jersey, ERIC H. JASO, in his official capacity as Chairperson of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, STEPHEN M.
HOLDEN, in his official capacity as Commissioner of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, and MARGUERITE T. SIMON, in her official capacity as Commissioner of the New Jersey

CONSENT ORDER CONVERTING PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION INTO FINAL JUDGMENT PERMANENTLY ENJOINING ENFORCEMENT OF P.L. 2019, c. 124 Election Law Enforcement Commission,

Defendants.

THIS MATTER having been brought before the Court by agreement of Jeanne LoCicero, Esq., counsel for Plaintiffs American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey and American Civil Liberties Union, Inc. (together, "ACLU Plaintiffs"), and Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General of New Jersey, by Stuart M. Feinblatt, Assistant Attorney General, counsel for Defendants Gurbir S. Grewal, in his official capacity as Attorney General of New Jersey, Eric H. Jaso, in his official capacity as Chairperson of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), and Stephen M. Holden and Marguerite T. Simon, in their official capacity as Commissioners of ELEC (together, "Defendants"); and it appearing by the signatures affixed below that the parties agree; and for good cause shown; and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Legislature passed S150 on June 10, 2019, and the legislation was enacted as P.L. 2019, c.124 ("the Act") on June 17, 2019, upon the signature of Governor Murphy (the term "the Act" does not include the preamendment provisions of Title 19, Chapter 44A of the New Jersey Statutes); and

WHEREAS the Act defines the term "independent expenditure committee" and imposes certain legal requirements on entities that qualify as independent expenditure committees; and

WHEREAS on September 10, 2019, the ACLU Plaintiffs filed a Complaint against Defendants in the United States District Court, District of New Jersey, Docket No. 3:19-cv-17807-BRM-LHG, challenging the Act under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I of the New Jersey Constitution; and

WHEREAS the Court entered a Consent Order on October 23, 2019 preliminarily enjoining the enforcement of the Act insofar as it imposes any legal requirement on any "independent expenditure committee" (the "Preliminary Injunction" (ECF No. 21)); and

WHEREAS the parties hereto agree to the conversion of the Preliminary Injunction into a final judgment enjoining enforcement of the Act in accordance with the terms set forth herein and the parties further agree to bear their own legal fees and costs associated with this litigation; THEREFORE, IT IS on this day of 2020,

#### **ORDERED** that:

- 1. The Preliminary Injunction entered in this case on October 23, 2019, is hereby converted to a permanent injunction;
- 2. The Act is permanently enjoined insofar as it imposes any legal requirement on any "independent expenditure committee," as defined in the Act, including the ACLU Plaintiffs and their employees or agents;
- 3. Defendants, and any state officers acting in concert with Defendants or under Defendants' direction or authority, shall not take any action to enforce, or direct the enforcement of, the Act against any "independent expenditure committee" as defined in the Act, including the ACLU Plaintiffs and their employees and agents, in any respect;
- 4. The ACLU Plaintiffs and their employees and agents shall not be required to take any action related to the Act;
- 5. Defendants, and any state officers acting in concert with Defendants or under Defendants' direction or authority, shall not seek to hold any "independent expenditure committee," including the ACLU Plaintiffs or their employees or agents, liable for any alleged noncompliance with the Act; and
- 6. Nothing in this consent order prevents further action by the Legislature or ELEC to enact, promulgate and enforce future legislation and regulations on the subjects addressed by or related to the Act; similarly, nothing in this consent order prevents or bars the ACLU Plaintiffs from seeking relief from any future legislation and regulations as it sees fit; and
- 7. The parties hereto shall bear their own legal fees and costs.

HON. BRIAN R. MARTINOTTI UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE We hereby consent to the form, content, and entry of this Order.

# GURBIR S. GREWAL ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By: /s/ Stuart M. Feinblatt\_\_\_\_\_

Stuart M. Feinblatt

Assistant Attorney General Attorney for Defendants

DATED: 2/25/2020

By: /s/ Jeanne LoCicero

Jeanne LoCicero, Esq. Attorneys for Plaintiffs

American Civil Liberties Union Of New Jersey and American Civil

Liberties Union, Inc.

DATED: 2/25/2020