

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 24-297

TAMER MAHMOUD, ET AL., PETITIONERS

v.

THOMAS W. TAYLOR, ET AL.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

MOTION OF THE UNITED STATES FOR LEAVE TO
PARTICIPATE IN ORAL ARGUMENT AS AMICUS CURIAE
AND FOR DIVIDED ARGUMENT

Pursuant to Rules 28.4 and 28.7 of the Rules of this Court, the Acting Solicitor General, on behalf of the United States, respectfully moves for leave to participate in the oral argument in this case as amicus curiae supporting petitioners. This case presents the question whether the Montgomery County Board of Education burdens parents' rights under the Free Exercise Clause by refusing to allow them to opt their children out of compulsory classroom instruction that contravenes the parents' religious obligations to their children. The United States has filed a brief as amicus curiae supporting petitioners -- arguing that the Board's

policy has burdened petitioners' religious exercise -- and requests that the United States be allowed ten minutes of argument time. Petitioners have agreed to an allocation of ten minutes of argument time to the United States and therefore consent to this motion.

The United States has a substantial interest in this case. As a general matter, the United States has a substantial interest in the preservation of the federal constitutional right of free exercise of religion. Congress has also enacted statutes addressing religious burdens, 42 U.S.C. 2000bb-2(4), 2000cc-5(7)(A), and religious accommodations in the education context, 20 U.S.C. 1232h(c), 6312(e)(2)(A). Moreover, the United States previously presented oral argument as amicus curiae in other recent cases involving the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment. See, e.g., Carson v. Makin, 596 U.S. 767 (2022); Fulton v. City of Philadelphia, 593 U.S. 522 (2021); Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue, 591 U.S. 464 (2020); Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru, 591 U.S. 732 (2020). Participation by the United States could therefore materially assist this Court in its consideration of this case.

Respectfully submitted.

SARAH M. HARRIS
Acting Solicitor General
Counsel of Record

MARCH 2025