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February 24, 2025

VIA ECF

Maureen W. Gornik Acting Clerk of Court Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse 111 South 10th Street Room 24.329 St. Louis, MO 63102

Re: Association for Accessible Medicines v. Keith Ellison, No. 24-1019

Dear Ms. Gornik:

Pursuant to Rule 28(j), I write to inform the Court of the recent decision in *Association for Accessible Medicines v. Bonta*, --- F. Supp. 3d ---, 2025 WL 489713 (E.D. Cal. Feb. 13, 2025). In that case, the court granted AAM summary judgment on its claim that a California law prohibiting certain settlement agreements violates the dormant Commerce Clause because it directly regulates "agreements that were not negotiated, completed, or entered in California." *Id.* at *7. That decision supports AAM's arguments for affirming the preliminary injunction in this case.

Bonta rejected the argument (also made by Defendant here in his reply brief and at oral argument) that National Pork Producers Council v. Ross, 598 U.S. 356 (2023), eliminated the Commerce Clause's prohibition on direct regulation of out-of-state commerce. 2025 WL 489713, at *7-9, *11. As AAM explained, every court to consider the question has recognized that Ross did not disturb this prohibition, because it considered a state statute that actually regulated in-state conduct (the sale of meat). Answering Br. 29. Bonta is the latest decision to agree. 2025 WL 489713, at *9. Indeed, it found "instructive" the district court's decision in this case, as well as Ninth Circuit precedent that AAM also cited. Id. at *9 (citing Sam Francis Foundation v. Christies, Inc., 784 F.3d 1320 (9th Cir. 2015) (en banc)); see Answering Br. 26 n.18, 35-36.

The California Attorney General, like Defendant's reply brief here, argued that all pre-Ross circuit precedent must be disregarded. The *Bonta* court disagreed. 2025 WL 489713, at *9. For the same reasons, this Court should reject Defendant's argument that it should disregard *Styczinski v. Arnold*, 46 F.4th 907 (8th Cir. 2022), under which Minnesota's statute is unconstitutional on its face.



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Respectfully submitted,

William M. Jay

Enclosure

cc: Counsel of Record (via ECF)