

# EXHIBIT 7

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION**

<b>ISRAEL ALVARADO, <i>et al.</i>,</b>	:	
	:	
<i>Plaintiffs,</i>	:	
v.	:	
	:	<b>Case No.: 1:22-cv-00876-AJT-JFA</b>
<b>LLOYD AUSTIN, III, <i>et al.</i>,</b>	:	
	:	
<i>Defendants.</i>	:	
	:	

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**DECLARATION OF BRANDON JOHNSON IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION FOR CLASS CERTIFICATION**

I, Brandon Johnson, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746, declare as follows:

1. My name is Brandon Johnson and I am over the age of 18.
  
2. I am an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the State of New York and the District of Columbia. I was admitted to the New York Bar in 2001 and to the Washington, D.C. Bar in 2008. I am currently in good standing with both.
  
3. I submit this declaration in support of the Plaintiffs’ Motion for Class Certification. The facts stated are true of my own personal knowledge and if called to testify to such facts, I could and would do so competently.
  
4. I am an attorney with Defending the Republic, a 501(c)(4) non-profit public interest advocacy organization, headquartered in Dallas, Texas. I have been retained by Plaintiffs to represent them in this action as co-counsel with Mr. Arthur A. Schulcz, Sr. and Mr. J. Andrew Meyer, who are each submitting their own declarations in support of the present motion for class certification.

5. I have over 20 years of experience with administrative, regulatory, civil and constitutional litigation before state and federal regulatory agencies and federal district and appellate courts with leading international law firms (Freshfield Bruckhaus Deringer, King & Spalding, Kirkland & Ellis, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher), as senior in-house counsel at Berkshire Hathaway Energy and general counsel to for start-up energy and medical technology companies, and as an attorney-advisor with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

6. I am lead counsel or co-counsel in several related individual and putative class actions making raising similar challenges to the Department of Defense's COVID-19 vaccine mandate under the First Amendment, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act, including: *Bazzrea v. Austin*, Case No. 3:22-cv-265 (S.D. Tex.) (putative class action for U.S. Coast Guard members); *Bongiovanni v. Austin*, 3:22-cv-580 (M.D. Fla.); *Coker v. Austin*, Case No. 3:21-cv-1211 (N.D. Fla.); *Davis v. Austin*, 3:22-cv-237 (M.D. Fla.); *Wilson v. Austin*, 4:22-cv-438 (E.D. Tex.).

7. In the event the Court grants Plaintiffs' Motion for Class Certification, I will continue to vigorously represent the interests of the named Plaintiffs and the proposed Class and Sub-Classes.

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

Executed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022, in Washington, DC.

/s/ Brandon Johnson  
Brandon Johnson