UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS WICHITA FALLS DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

CIVIL No. 7:25-cv-00055

v.

STATE OF TEXAS,

Defendant.

JOINT MOTION FOR ENTRY OF CONSENT JUDGMENT

The United States of America (Plaintiff) and the State of Texas (Defendant) jointly move this Court to enter the attached proposed Consent Judgment as to the claim and prayer for relief outlined in the Complaint. ECF No.1. In support of this motion, the Parties incorporate the allegations in the Complaint by reference and state the following:

- 1. Plaintiff filed suit against Defendant on June 4, 2025.
- 2. The Parties agree the Court has jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345 and venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).
- 3. In the Complaint, Plaintiff challenged the provisions at Texas Education Code §§ 54.051(m) and 54.052(a) as expressly preempted by federal immigration law at 8 U.S.C. § 1623.
- 4. Plaintiff requested that this Court enter a judgment declaring that the challenged provisions, as applied to aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States, violate the Supremacy Clause and therefore are unconstitutional and invalid. Plaintiff also requested that the Court issue a permanent injunction prohibiting Defendant from enforcing the challenged provisions as applied to aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States.

- 5. The Parties agree the Court has the authority to provide the requested relief under the Supremacy Clause, U.S. Const. art. VI, cl. 2, as well as 28 U.S.C. §§ 1651, 2201, and 2202, and its inherent equitable powers.
- 6. Federal law at Section 1623(a) of Title 8 of the United States Code expressly provides that "an alien who is not lawfully present in the United States shall not be eligible on the basis of residence within a State . . . for any postsecondary education benefit unless a citizen or national of the United States is eligible for such a benefit . . . without regard to whether the citizen or national is such a resident." 8 U.S.C. § 1623(a).
- 7. In direct and express conflict with federal law, Texas education law specifically allows an alien who is not lawfully present in the United States to qualify for in-state tuition based on residence within the state, while explicitly denying resident-based tuition rates to U.S. citizens that do not qualify as Texas residents. *See* Texas Education Code §§ 54.051(m), 54.052(a)(3).
- 8. The Parties agree that federal law at 8 U.S.C. § 1623(a) expressly preempts the Texas Education Code provisions—§§ 54.051(m), 54.052(a)—that grant benefits to aliens, who are not lawfully present in the United States, based on their residency in Texas, that are not available to all U.S. citizens regardless of residency. *See* Texas Education Code §§ 54.051(m), 54.052(a); *Young Conservatives of Texas Foundation*, 73 F.4th at 313 ("No matter what a state says, if a state did not make U.S. citizens eligible, illegal aliens cannot be eligible.").
- 9. Accordingly, the Parties request that the Court enter a final judgment declaring that the challenged provisions, Texas Education Code §§ 54.051(m), 54.052(a), as applied to aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States, violate the Supremacy Clause and are therefore unconstitutional and invalid.

- 10. The Parties request that that this Court issue a permanent injunction that prohibits Defendant as well as its successors, agents, and employees, from enforcing the challenged provisions as applied to aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States.
 - 11. The Parties agree that each party will bear their own costs and fees.

DATED: June 4, 2025

Counsel for Plaintiff

CHAD MIZELLE Acting Associate Attorney General ABHISHEK S. KAMBLI Deputy Associate Attorney General YAAKOV M. ROTH Acting Assistant Attorney General Civil Division DREW C. ENSIGN Deputy Assistant Attorney General ELIANIS N. PÉREZ Assistant Director Civil Division

/s/<u>Lauren E. Fascett</u>

LAUREN E. FASCETT Senior Litigation Counsel United States Department of Justice Civil Division Office of Immigration Litigation General Litigation and Appeals Section P.O. Box 868, Ben Franklin Station Washington, D.C. 20044 Telephone: (202) 616-3466

Fax: (202) 305-7000

Email: lauren.fascett@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for the United States

Respectfully submitted,

Counsel for Defendant

Ken Paxton

Attorney General of Texas

Brent Webster

First Assistant Attorney General

Ralph Molina

Deputy First Assistant Attorney General

Ryan D. Walters

Deputy Attorney General for Legal Strategy

Ryan G. Kercher

Chief, Special Litigation Division

/s/ Zachary L. Rhines

Zachary L. Rhines

Special Counsel Texas State Bar No. 24116957 zachary.rhines@oag.texas.gov

Wade Johnson

Special Counsel Texas State Bar No. 24062197 wade.johnson@oag.texas.gov

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF

TEXAS

Special Litigation Division P.O. Box 12548, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711-2548 Telephone: (512) 463-2100

COUNSEL FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS WICHITA FALLS DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERIC.	١,	
Plaintiff,	CIVIL No. 7:25-cv-00055	
v. STATE OF TEXAS,	Proposed Order and Fina Judgment	l Consent
Defendant.		

ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT

Before the Court is the Parties' **Joint Motion for Entry of a Consent Judgment**. ECF No. 5. Having considered the Motion, the Complaint, and applicable law, the Court GRANTS the Motion. Accordingly, the Court hereby **DECLARES** that the challenged provisions, Texas Education Code §§ 54.051(m), 54.052(a), as applied to aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States, violate the Supremacy Clause and are unconstitutional and invalid.

The Court also hereby **PERMANENTLY ENJOINS** Defendant as well as its successors, agents, and employees, from enforcing Texas Education Code § 54.051(m) and § 54.052(a), as applied to aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States.

This final judgment is issued pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 58(a). The Clerk of the Court shall transmit a true copy of this judgment to the Parties.

SO ORDERED on this	y of 2025.	
	Reed C. O'Connor	
	United States District Judge	