1 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES 2 - - - - - - - - - - - - x 3 LONG ISLAND CARE AT HOME, LTD., : 4 : ET AL., 5 Petitioners : : No. 06-593 6 v. 7 EVELYN COKE. : - - - - - - - - - - - - x 8 9 Washington, D.C. 10 Monday, April 16, 2007 11 The above-entitled matter came on for oral 12 13 argument before the Supreme Court of the United States 14 at 11:06 a.m. 15 **APPEARANCES:** H. BARTOW FARR, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of 16 17 Petitioners. 18 DAVID B. SALMONS, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor 19 General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; on 20 behalf of the United States, as amicus curiae, 21 supporting Petitioners. HAROLD C. BECKER, ESQ., Chicago, Ill; on behalf of 22 23 Respondent. 24 25

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| 1  | PROCEEDINGS  |
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| 2  | (11:06 a.m.)   |
| 3  | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument               |
| 4  | next in case 06-593, Long Island Care at Home versus     |
| 5  | Coke.  |
| 6  | Mr. Farr.  |
| 7  | ORAL ARGUMENT OF H. BARTOW FARR                          |
| 8  | ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS                             |
| 9  | MR. FARR: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it                  |
| 10 | please the Court:  |
| 11 | In the 1974 amendments to the Fair Labor                 |
| 12 | Standards Act, Congress made one thing very clear, that  |
| 13 | it wanted the Department of Labor to define the          |
| 14 | boundaries and fill in the details of the companionship  |
| 15 | services exemption. And I think that has two important   |
| 16 | implications for this case.                              |
| 17 | First of all, when the Department has filled             |
| 18 | in the details, after notice-and-comment rulemaking, its |
| 19 | regulations should receive Chevron deference as long as  |
| 20 | they are permissible implementation of the statute.      |
| 21 | Second, and particularly specific to this                |
| 22 | case, if there are ambiguities in the regulations, or as |
| 23 | we have here, an apparent facial inconsistency, the      |
| 24 | Court should accept the Secretary's resolution of that   |
| 25 | ambiguity provided that it is a reasonable one. And      |
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here we submit it's not only a reasonable one, it is by
 far the most sensible one.

Now I'd actually like to turn, if I may, to 3 4 the second issue first, because I think that's a 5 source of a lot of the concern in this case. 6 Plainly the two regulations, section 10 --7 552.109(a), which is the regulation directly at issue before this Court, and 552.3, which is the regulation 8 relied on heavily by the Second Circuit to strike down 9 10 the present regulation, have some inconsistency between 11 them.

But it is also plain that the Department could not have intended to say at one and the same time that the only employers entitled to use the exemption were homeowners and then say in another section promulgated at the same time that also third-party employers are entitled to the exemption. So the question is, how does one resolve this apparent inconsistency?

And the Secretary says, well, the only regulation that we promulgated that, in fact, deals specifically with the issue of third-party employment is 552.109(a), which is in fact headed Third-Party Employment.

And that section 552.3, while containing some language that might be read to address that issue,

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| 1  | in fact deals with several other topics. Specifically  |
|--|--|
| 2  | it deals with the topic of what kinds of jobs are  |
| 3  | involved in domestic service, maids, chauffeurs,   |
| 4  | footmen, et cetera; where those have to be performed, in   |
| 5  | a private home; and in fact, somewhat more than that, in   |
| б  | the private home of the person receiving the services.   |
| 7  | So it's not enough, for example, for   |
| 8  | somebody to conduct a service like laundry or baby-  |
| 9  | sitting in his or her own house, it has to be in the   |
| 10   | house of the person receiving the services.  |
| 11   | JUSTICE GINSBURG: I thought the words were   |
| 12   | the home of the person who employs, not who receives the   |
| 13   | services but who employs.  |
| 14   | MR. FARR: Oh, that's correct,  |
| ± ±  | me. mate on, ende b correce,   |
| 15   | Justice Ginsburg. The literal language is not  |
|  |  |
| 15   | Justice Ginsburg. The literal language is not  |
| 15<br>16                                     | Justice Ginsburg. The literal language is not specifically what I was saying. What I'm talking about   |
| 15<br>16<br>17                               | Justice Ginsburg. The literal language is not<br>specifically what I was saying. What I'm talking about<br>is the Secretary's attempt to resolve what is an  |
| 15<br>16<br>17<br>18                         | Justice Ginsburg. The literal language is not<br>specifically what I was saying. What I'm talking about<br>is the Secretary's attempt to resolve what is an<br>apparent inconsistency between the literal language in  |
| 15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19                   | Justice Ginsburg. The literal language is not<br>specifically what I was saying. What I'm talking about<br>is the Secretary's attempt to resolve what is an<br>apparent inconsistency between the literal language in<br>552.3 and the literal language of section 552.109(a).   |
| 15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20             | Justice Ginsburg. The literal language is not<br>specifically what I was saying. What I'm talking about<br>is the Secretary's attempt to resolve what is an<br>apparent inconsistency between the literal language in<br>552.3 and the literal language of section 552.109(a).<br>JUSTICE GINSBURG: By by reading out the  |
| 15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21       | Justice Ginsburg. The literal language is not<br>specifically what I was saying. What I'm talking about<br>is the Secretary's attempt to resolve what is an<br>apparent inconsistency between the literal language in<br>552.3 and the literal language of section 552.109(a).<br>JUSTICE GINSBURG: By by reading out the<br>words "of the person who employs" her?  |
| 15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21<br>22 | Justice Ginsburg. The literal language is not<br>specifically what I was saying. What I'm talking about<br>is the Secretary's attempt to resolve what is an<br>apparent inconsistency between the literal language in<br>552.3 and the literal language of section 552.109(a).<br>JUSTICE GINSBURG: By by reading out the<br>words "of the person who employs" her?<br>MR. FARR: Well, essentially reading them to |

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1 leaving aside the question of deference to the Secretary 2 for a moment, Justice Ginsburg -- if one is simply talking 3 about making a fair resolution of these conflicting 4 provisions from the ground up, it seems to me the first 5 thing that one would do is apply the canon that the specific provision controls the general. 6 7 And if one looks at the two provisions, section 109(a) is a provision that deals with one thing 8 and one thing only: that is third-party employment. 9 10 And it says explicitly and straight out that 11 persons who are employed by third-party employers are --12 or third-party employers who employ persons performing 13 domestic services are entitled to the exemption. 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: I thought it also 15 addressed, unlike the more general regulation, just 16 people who have companionship services. So if you have 17 a maid or a cook or a footman, who doesn't provide 18 companionship, then 109 is inapplicable. 19 MR. FARR: That would be true. Now that would be inapplicable, of course --20 JUSTICE SCALIA: What's a footman? I don't 21 even know what a footman is. 22 23 (Laughter.) JUSTICE SCALIA: What is a footman? 24 25 MR. FARR: I think that may be beyond my

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1 expertise, Justice Scalia.

2 The -- of course that doesn't address 3 anything beyond companionship services, of course, 4 because there is not an exemption beyond that. And 5 that's one of the interesting things about 552.3. In addition to generally dealing with this question of what б 7 kind of jobs are domestic service, it is, in fact, going 8 well beyond anything that is necessary to a discussion 9 of the exemption for companionship services, because 10 jobs like chauffeurs, and maids, and all of that are not 11 subject to the exemption. So it really looks at what 12 552.3 is doing despite the couple of words that -- at 13 the beginning of it, is giving a general definition of 14 what constitutes domestic employment, what constitutes 15 domestic services for purposes not only of the exemption 16 but, in fact, really for the purposes of coverage as 17 well.

And the Department has taken that position. It says this is, in fact, the only definition of domestic service that we have in the regulations, and it is not just intended to be limited to the particular situation of the exemption. It applies more broadly than that to coverage as well.

So I think in all those senses,
Justice Kennedy, 109 is a very specific provision; 552.3

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1 deals with a number of other subjects.

| 2  | Now, one other thing on the statutory                    |
|----|--|
| 3  | interpretation part is that the reading of 552.3 that    |
| 4  | Respondent offers also leads to the problem that         |
| 5  | essentially sets up a tension with another one of the    |
| 6  | regulations which is 552.101(a). 552.101(a) which I'm    |
| 7  | sorry I don't have the right page number here it         |
| 8  | is on page 77a of the appendix to the petition has,      |
| 9  | carries over the language from 552.3 about "in the home  |
| 10 | of the employer" that Justice Ginsburg referred to. But  |
| 11 | then it also says that this includes people who are      |
| 12 | commonly referred to as "private household workers."     |
| 13 | And the one thing we know from the                       |
| 14 | Department of Labor submissions to Congress in 1974 and  |
| 15 | also from what the Department has said before this Court |
| 16 | is that that term at the time was defined by the         |
| 17 | Department and known by Congress to constitute more than |
| 18 | just employees employed by the homeowner. There was a    |
| 19 | special second category for people who worked in the     |
| 20 | home of the homeowner at the homeowner's request but     |
| 21 | were employed by a third-party agency.                   |
| 22 | Now somewhere underlying all of this                     |
| 23 | question, I think, is statutory interpretation and       |
| 24 | indeed all of Respondent's arguments against deference   |
| 25 | to the Department is a basic underlying premise, which   |

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is that Congress really would not have wanted, even if
 it didn't say so, for the exemption to apply to
 employees who work for third parties.

And I would just like to suggest that there really is no basis for thinking that Congress would have wanted that.

7 First of all, third-party employers such as private agencies provide services for the particular group 8 of people which Congress was trying to assist with this 9 10 exemption. People who by reason of age or disability are 11 unable to care for themselves. Agencies acting as the employers specifically can do the hiring, they can do the 12 13 vetting and the screening, the background screening for 14 employees. They can provide necessary paperwork, filing 15 Social Security documents and things like that.

16 So, in fact, for Congress to have some sort 17 of bias against covered enterprises seems a little bit 18 unusual.

19JUSTICE SCALIA: Mr. Farr, I'm not sure I20followed your argument with regard to 552,101(a).21MR. FARR: Uh-huh. Yes, Your Honor.22JUSTICE SCALIA: Page 77a as you said.23But what is your argument there? I mean,24that seems to, that seems to reinforce the provision25that you say we should ignore or at least should accept

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1 the Secretary's reinterpretation of.

2 MR. FARR: Well perhaps, perhaps I wasn't as 3 clear as I intended to be. The -- it does, as I indicated, 4 have the language about the private home of the 5 employer. 6 JUSTICE SCALIA: That's right. 7 MR. FARR: However, the -- the preceding 8 sentence says the term -- referring to the term that is at issue in 552.3 -- "domestic service employment," includes 9 10 persons who are frequently referred to as "private household workers." The fact is that those two 11 statements are inconsistent with each other. The term 12 13 cannot be limited to employees of the homeowner and 14 also include persons who are frequently referred to as 15 "private household workers", at least if one means all 16 of the persons frequently referred to as --17 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes. I see. Is that 18 clear in the -- in the specific Senate report that is 19 referred to here? In the specific Senate reports, 20 MR. FARR: 21 in both the '73 and the '74 reports --22 JUSTICE SCALIA: This, the one that's cited 23 in the regulation itself. Because I -- otherwise, I don't, I ignore those things. If it's cited in the 24 25 regulation --

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1 MR. FARR: Well, I'm --2 JUSTICE SCALIA: -- does that report say it? 3 MR. FARR: What -- the report uses the term 4 "private household workers" frequently interchangeably 5 with the term "domestic employee." That is what is clear 6 from the report itself. 7 Now, the Department of Labor when it was 8 reporting to Congress, as Congress has required it to do, the Department of Labor used the term "private 9 10 households workers", specifically defined in there by the 11 Department, to say this means not just employees 12 employed by the homeowner but also people who are 13 employed by third parties. 14 So I think it is a fair assumption that when 15 the Senate report was using that phrase, it was using it 16 in the same manner that the Department of Labor reports 17 had. And, in fact, at one point in the -- moving 18 further backwards in the legislative history -- Senator 19 Dominick actually quoted that language, the definition 20 from the Department of Labor, on the Senate floor during 21 the debates. 22 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I thought that the 23 Department of Labor's first take on this was that the 24 exemption did not apply to third-party employers. That 25 was the original Department of Labor position, wasn't

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1 it? 2 MR. FARR: No, Justice Ginsburg. And I 3 believe that's not correct. There was a, an opinion 4 letter from the Department in November of 1975 -- this 5 is an opinion letter that's cited at page 21 of the 6 Solicitor General's brief -- which specifically stated 7 that the exemption applied whether the employee was an 8 employee of the homeowner or of a public or private 9 agency. 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I'm referring to the 11 notice-and-comment rulemaking in which you place great 12 stock. I thought the original notice-and-comment 13 rulemaking said the exemption does not apply to 14 third-party employers. I'm sorry, Justice Ginsburg. 15 MR. FARR: Ι 16 misunderstood the time frame we were dealing with. In 17 the notice of proposed rulemaking, actually I would 18 disagree with that characterization also. The notice of 19 proposed rulemaking made a division among third-party 20 employers. It said the exemption would not be available 21 to those third-party employers who were covered enterprises but it would be available to those who were 22 23 not covered enterprises. 24 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, wait. Does a notice

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of proposed rulemaking set forth the Agency's position?

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1 MR. FARR: No, it does not. 2 JUSTICE SCALIA: I didn't think it did. 3 They're just floating an idea. You know --4 That's correct. MR. FARR: 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: Run it up the flagpole, see if --6 7 Well, that it solicited comments MR. FARR: 8 on that proposal. And after the comments, it changed 9 its position to say no, in fact, all third-party 10 employers will be exempt. 11 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And -- and gave no further discussion of it after -- after I'd sent out the 12 13 notice of proposed ruling that said third-party 14 employers will not be exempt, and then it said they will 15 be exempt, did it give reasons for the change? 16 MR. FARR: Yes, if I can just -- if I can 17 quibble with the premise of the question. The first 18 time it said some third-party employers would be exempt 19 and some wouldn't. Then when it changed --20 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Some would be the ones 21 that qualified as -- what is the phrase, "enterprises 22 engaged in commerce"? 23 That's correct -- those would be MR. FARR: the ones under the proposed rulemaking that would have 24 25 been denied the exemption. When in fact -- when, in

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1 fact, the Labor Department said no, in fact, the 2 exemption should apply to all third-party employers. It 3 said it found that more consistent with the statutory 4 language. And it also said it was more consistent with 5 what it had done under other regulations which had been 6 passed under the Fair Labor Standards Act. 7 JUSTICE STEVENS: Mr. Farr, would you agree 8 that the position expressed in the notice would itself -- in the original notice would have been 9 10 consistent with the statutory language? 11 MR. FARR: I'm not sure of that, 12 Justice Stevens, to be honest with you. I mean one of 13 the difficulties here in answering that is that I think, 14 because the Department has such broad authority under 15 213(a)(15) to define and delimit the terms, I think 16 what's consistent with the statute is expanded somewhat. 17 On the other hand, I have to say I don't 18 really see where there would be in the language of the 19 statute any basis for drawing a distinction between 20 different kinds of third-party employers. The 21 phraseology in the coverage provisions, the phraseology 22 in the exemption provisions, really doesn't allow for 23 that in terms of any sort of statutory interpretation. 24 JUSTICE STEVENS: Well there would be a 25 basis in terms of the size of the third-party employer.

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1 MR. FARR: I mean, it's possible, but as I 2 say, the -- I mean, among the difficulties is covered enterprises is not just corporations and big and small 3 4 corporations. Covered enterprises beginning in 1974 5 includes State and local Governments. So what Congress would have been addressing here, if it had been squarely б 7 facing the issue, would have not just been the question 8 of how to treat large and small corporations, but whether it wanted to deny the exemption to covered 9 10 enterprises such as State and local agencies who, in 11 fact, do provide a lot of the direct employees who 12 provide companionship care. They have a lot of 13 employees who actually go into homes and care for people 14 who are employed by State and local Governments. And I 15 think it would be a little bit unusual for Congress, who 16 is reasonably solicitous of State interests, to deny 17 them an exemption that would have been of considerable 18 importance to them. As the State of -- or the City of 19 New York brief points out, this is a very extensive 20 endeavor.

JUSTICE GINSBURG: Were they covered before, before there was any provision that dealt with household workers? If State and localities were considered "enterprises engaged in commerce," then presumably they were -- they had no exemption before, their companion

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| 1  | care people, just as their household workers, would be |
|----|--|
| 2  | covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act.               |
| 3  | MR. FARR: No, but I think, Justice                     |
| 4  | Ginsburg, the important point is they were not covered |
| 5  | prior to 1974. There were certain                      |
| б  | JUSTICE SOUTER: They were not treated as               |
| 7  | covered enterprises.                                   |
| 8  | MR. FARR: That's correct. They were                    |
| 9  | they were, if they worked in schools or institutions   |
| 10 | like hospitals. Other than that, they were not until   |
| 11 | 1974. That's exactly correct. This, in fact, would     |
| 12 | have been denying them an exemption at the very time   |
| 13 | that for other occupations aside from companionship    |
| 14 | services, they were first having coverage applied to   |
| 15 | them.  |
| 16 | If there are no further questions, I'd like            |
| 17 | to reserve the remainder of my time.                   |
| 18 | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you Mr. Farr.             |
| 19 | Mr. Salmons.   |
| 20 | ORAL ARGUMENT OF DAVID B. SALMONS                      |
| 21 | ON BEHALF OF UNITED STATES                             |
| 22 | AS AMICUS CURIAE SUPPORTING PETITIONERS                |
| 23 | MR. SALMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice,             |
| 24 | and may it please the Court:                           |
| 25 | The FLSA's companionship services exemption            |

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applies by its terms to any employee employed in domestic service employment to provide companionship services for the aged or infirm. The Act imposes no limitation based on the identity of the employer. And the Agency's regulation of 552.109 extending the exemption to employees of third parties is entitled to deference.

8 The Department expressly invoked its 9 statutory rulemaking authority in adopting section 109, 10 or 552.109. It utilized notice-and-comment rulemaking 11 procedures both in 1975 and each time it considered 12 amending the regulation. And States and care providers 13 have relied upon it in devising systems to provide 14 appropriate services to the aged and the infirm.

15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So if the Department 16 of Labor had enacted its regulations as originally 17 proposed, those regulations would have been invalid? 18 MR. SALMONS: No, I don't think so, Your 19 Honor. If you're referring to the initial proposed 20 rulemaking that would have exempted only some third 21 parties, we think that would have been a permissible 22 reading of the exemption given the fact that the 23 Secretary is provided very broad defined limit 24 authority. But we certainly think there's nothing in 25 that exemption that precludes the construction that's

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been adopted here. In fact, we think it is the most
 consistent with that language.

The language of 552.3 upon which Respondent relies does not change that conclusion. While if read in isolation that language could require that domestic service employees have to provide their services in the home of the employer, it should be not -- it should not be given that reading for the reasons explained in the Department's 2005 advisory memorandum.

10 The Department's construction of its own 11 regulations contained in that memorandum is itself 12 entitled to deference under Auer and Seminole Rock and 13 its construction harmonizes the various provisions at 14 issue here far better than Respondent's reading of 553 15 does.

16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Harmonizes --17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: The statute treats 18 together babysitters and elder-care people, but I take 19 it the babysitters if they were working for an agency 20 rather than for the householders, there wouldn't be any 21 exemption? Is that right?

22 MR. SALMONS: That's correct, and that's 23 tied to a specific term that only applies to the 24 exemption as to babysitters. The only thing that's 25 exempt with regard to babysitters is babysitting on a

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1 casual basis. Congress certainly could have included a 2 casual basis requirement with regard to the exemption 3 for companionship services. We think it's very notable 4 that it did not and we read from that that Congress 5 wanted all domestic service employees providing companionship services to be exempt, and we think that's 6 7 most consistent with the goal of ensuring that those individuals who most need this type of care have the 8 9 opportunity to receive them at a reasonable cost.

10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Isn't it odd that this --11 the basic thing about the '74 legislation, it was going 12 to add to the Fair Labor Standards Act people who were 13 not covered before. So it added household workers. And 14 yet you say that, while Congress had its mind trained on 15 adding people, it also subtracted people who were covered before, took them out, removed them from the 16 17 coverage of the Act.

MR. SALMONS: Well, we think that that is the consequence of the companionship services exemption, but we don't think that's odd based on the Department of Labor's view of what the purpose of that exemption is and based on the textual difference between, for example, the exemption for babysitting services and the exemption for companionship services.

The exemption here expresses no limitation

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1 based on the identity of the employer and we think it 2 was well within the Agency's discretion to conclude that 3 what Congress had in mind here was a categorical 4 exemption based on the type of services that are being 5 provided; and while that may mean that there are certain workers who are now exempt who were not previously 6 7 exempt, that's because Congress for the first time in 8 1974 focused on this problem of companionship services 9 being provided to those who cannot care for themselves; 10 and we think that follows from the text, and for the 11 reasons Congress adopted that.

12 JUSTICE STEVENS: Mr. Salmons, can I ask you 13 a question about the importance of the whole litigation? 14 Am I correct in believing that there's a provision in 15 the law that protects the defendants from damages 16 liability if they relied in good faith on the regulation, 17 so that what we're really talking about is whether the 18 regulation would apply in the future rather than there 19 being a damage issue in the case?

20 MR. SALMONS: Well, there is a safe-harbor 21 provision that allows for reliance by employers on a --22 advisory memorandum statement by the Agency.

23 JUSTICE STEVENS: That would clearly apply 24 to this case, would it not?

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MR. FARR: We certainly think it would. I

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1 take it Respondents in this case would disagree and 2 would point to the language of 552.3. I'm not sure, for 3 example, how the Second Circuit would have resolved that 4 question, given the way it viewed the statute here. But 5 we do think that that would apply and so I think one view of that would be it's largely prospective. 6 7 JUSTICE STEVENS: So in your view we're 8 really faced with a question of whether the regulation 9 should be given prospective effect. 10 MR. SALMONS: I'm sorry? What would be 11 given prospective effect? 12 JUSTICE STEVENS: As to whether the 13 Government's position should be given prospective effect 14 because the past liability doesn't -- the damage 15 liability just doesn't exist. MR. SALMONS: Well, that is our view. 16 17 Again, I think that would be an issue that would be 18 litigated and I'm sure litigated heavily in the hundreds 19 of cases that are being filed under this provision. And 20 I think it's -- one of the concerns I think of the 21 Agency here was to provide a clear statement with regard 22 to how these seemingly conflicting provisions of the 23 regulation are to be reconciled and applied. 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Not seemingly conflicting. They conflict. 25

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| 1  | MR. SALMONS: Well, I certainly don't take                |
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| 2  | issue with that. I think that there are a variety of     |
| 3  | things that point to the conclusion that the language in |
| 4  | 552.3 that refers to "in the home of the employer"       |
| 5  | simply cannot be read literally. It was borrowed from    |
| 6  | the Social Security context and if read the way          |
| 7  | Respondents do we think would raise a serious question   |
| 8  | about the scope of coverage because the Agency has       |
| 9  | always viewed 552.3, notwithstanding the initial line    |
| 10 | that says "For purposes of the exemption," to provide    |
| 11 | the relevant definition for coverage as well. And no     |
| 12 | party, or amici for that matter, before this Court nor   |
| 13 | the Department thinks that there's a difference between  |
| 14 | the identity of the employer for purposes of coverage.   |
| 15 | And we also think, given the language in 101 that refers |
| 16 | to "private household workers", the definition of which  |
| 17 | was provided to Congress in a report by the Department   |
| 18 | of Labor and is relied upon in the advisory memorandum   |
| 19 | in 2005, which clearly applied to third-party employers, |
| 20 | suggests that 552.3 cannot be read literally.            |
| 21 | And of course we know that at the same time              |
| 22 | that the Agency adopted 552.3 it felt the need to adopt  |
| 23 | a specific regulation dealing with the question of       |
| 24 | third-party employment which would not be relevant       |
|    |  |

25 which would not be necessary under Respondent's reading.

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| 1  | If the Court has no further questions.                   |
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| 2  | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,                        |
| 3  | Mr. Salmons.   |
| 4  | Mr. Becker.  |
| 5  | ORAL ARGUMENT OF HAROLD C. BECKER                        |
| 6  | ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT                              |
| 7  | MR. BECKER: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it                |
| 8  | please the Court:  |
| 9  | On October 1, 1974, just five months after               |
| 10 | the 1974 amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act took |
| 11 | effect, the Department of Labor exercised its delegated  |
| 12 | lawmaking function to define this term "domestic         |
| 13 | service employment," which exists in the companionship   |
| 14 | exemption and nowhere else in the amendments. And they   |
| 15 | defined it clearly and explicitly to apply only to       |
| 16 | companions and babysitters employed by the household.    |
| 17 | At the same time, DOL provided a persuasive              |
| 18 | explanation for that definition. The Department found    |
| 19 | that such companions and babysitters when employed by    |
| 20 | covered enterprises had been covered prior to the        |
| 21 | amendments and that it could not have been Congress's    |
| 22 | purpose, when amendments were explicitly designed to     |
| 23 | extend coverage, to at the same time contract coverage.  |
| 24 | The very preamble to the Act states that the purposes of |
| 25 | the amendments are to expand the coverage of the Act.    |

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1 Therefore, the DOL itself concluded in October of 1974 2 that it was not the purpose of those amendments to deny 3 the Act's protection to previously covered domestic 4 service employees. 5 The definition in 552.3, which expressly applies only to the exemption, conflicts directly with б 7 the final third-party regulation. JUSTICE BREYER: Was that later? 8 9 MR. BECKER: Yes, Your Honor. JUSTICE BREYER: How long? How much later? 10 11 MR. BECKER: The final regulations were 12 promulgated in February of 2005. 13 JUSTICE BREYER: No, no. I thought that the provision that was read -- what is the number -- where 14 15 they say 552.109; that didn't appear anywhere until many 16 years later? 17 MR. BECKER: No, no, Your Honor. That was 18 in the final regulations, which were promulgated in 19 February -- excuse me -- in 1975, not 2005. I think I 20 mis --21 JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, you read --22 MR. BECKER: In the final regulations. JUSTICE BREYER: You read 3 and 3 said what 23 you said it said. All right. How much later did they 24 25 promulgate 109?

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| 1  | MR. BECKER: That was in the final                      |
|----|--|
| 2  | regulations in February of '75.                        |
| 3  | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The same time that              |
| 4  | 552.3 was finally promulgated.                         |
| 5  | MR. BECKER: That's correct.                            |
| 6  | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: They came out                   |
| 7  | together, right?                                       |
| 8  | MR. BECKER: That's correct.                            |
| 9  | JUSTICE BREYER: That's what I thought. So              |
| 10 | the same day they say, 3, you have to have these       |
| 11 | domestic workers employed by the old lady who's sick,  |
| 12 | and then in 109 they say you don't.                    |
| 13 | MR. BECKER: That's correct. There's a                  |
| 14 | direct conflict.                                       |
| 15 | JUSTICE BREYER: All right. Now, why is                 |
| 16 | that a conflict? Let's imagine it sounds like a        |
| 17 | conflict. But it's easy for me to imagine a regulation |
| 18 | that says birds for purposes of this are animals that  |
| 19 | fly, and then 15 pages later it says, but by the way,  |
| 20 | penguins don't and they're still covered. I mean, why  |
| 21 | is that a conflict? There are lots of there are        |
| 22 | specific situations. If I had read that, I would have  |
| 23 | thought, well, okay, they have an exception.           |
| 24 | MR. BECKER: Your Honor, the definitional               |
| 25 | regulation, 552.3, explicitly defines a term used only |

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1 in the companionship services exemption, "domestic 2 service employment." And it defines it clearly and 3 explicitly to apply only to employment by the household. 4 Therefore, there is a direct conflict with 5 the so-called third-party employer regulation, which appears to say that the exemption can apply to employees б 7 employed by third parties. 8 The importance of the conflict is twofold. 9 One, when the original regulation was proposed the 10 Department provided a persuasive explanation. Congress 11 surely didn't intend to contract coverage in amendments 12 designed explicitly to expand coverage. 13 JUSTICE BREYER: Did Congress intend to 14 cover, which I guess is a growing situation, that there 15 is an old woman or man and they're very sick and they live in their house, there's only one way to keep them 16 17 from having to go to an institution. Their children 18 hire a companion to look after them. Now, that's a 19 third-party. 20 MR. BECKER: Your Honor, that question has 21 been posed by some of the amici and it is a good question, but not the question before you. 22 23 JUSTICE BREYER: Because? MR. BECKER: And I submit that if the 24 25 Department construed section 552.3 to say when our words

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1 say "employed by the household" that could include a 2 broader notion of the household, for example a son or 3 daughter living outside the household, that might be a 4 permissible construction of the Department's own 5 regulation. But the construction which simply takes 6 those words --

7 JUSTICE BREYER: It doesn't say that. Ιt 8 says "about, in or about a private home of the person by whom he is employed." I live in San Francisco. 9 My 10 mother lives in Massachusetts. Now, if I hire a 11 companion to live in Massachusetts, that companion does 12 not work about a private home of the person, me, by whom 13 she is employed. So if we're being literal and if you 14 win this case, I don't see how -- and I'm worried about 15 this, obviously -- however -- and I think it's probably 16 very common, that all over the country it's the family, 17 the children, the grandchildren, an aunt, an uncle, 18 maybe a good friend, maybe they're not even related, who 19 is paying for a companion for an old, sick person so 20 they don't have to be brought to an institution. 21

And if you win this case, it seems to me suddenly there will be millions of people who will be unable to do it and, hence, millions of sick people who will move to institutions. Now, if I were to say that that isn't totally a legal point, it is of course a

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1 legal point because it's a question of what people 2 intended, but a worrisome point, I would be telling the 3 truth. To me it is a very worrisome point. 4 MR. BECKER: It's a very important question 5 of public policy and therefore let me answer in two One, I think there is a proper procedure even б ways. 7 under the existing regulations to address that concern. The elderly individual that you're concerned about who 8 is severely disabled and thus needs this care, the child 9 10 or family member who is employing the companion to care 11 for them could do so as their guardian, and therefore as 12 a technical legal matter would be doing so, the 13 employment would be by the person who resides in the 14 home, and is being taken care of. JUSTICE SCALIA: It wouldn't take a whole lot 15 16 of imagination for Justice Breyer to give the money to 17 his mother, who could then hire the --18 (Laughter.) 19 MR. BECKER: Exactly. So --20 JUSTICE SCALIA: I mean, a clever lawyer 21 would think of that, I think. 22 (Laughter.) 23 MR. BECKER: The clever lawyer from the 24 previous case. 25 JUSTICE BREYER: And perhaps there are

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people, lawyers in the Government, who try to see
 through that kind of thing.

3 MR. BECKER: But let me answer the second -4 JUSTICE BREYER: And there are many -- maybe
5 Justice Scalia has the answer.

6 MR. BECKER: Let me answer in a second way 7 to what is a very serious concern. And the second way the situation could be dealt with is by the Department 8 of Labor. They could look at their regulation and say, 9 10 the industry has changed and therefore, in a way which 11 could certainly be consistent with Congress's intent 12 because it would not be withdrawing coverage from a 13 previously covered employee who was employed by an 14 enterprise, we could say that the exemption applies to 15 companions and babysitters employed by private 16 individuals, including the homeowner, the son or 17 daughter, et cetera.

JUSTICE STEVENS: If you're saying it's permissible to change the rules because the industry has changed, is it not possible that the industry changed at about the time the statute was enacted? That the prevalence of third-party employers is something that really developed later?

24 MR. BECKER: As an empirical matter, that is 25 clearly the case, Justice Stevens. However, we know

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1 several things about Congress in 1974. We know that the 2 enterprise coverage was relatively new. It had been 3 adopted it in 1961, expanded in 1966, and indeed expanded 4 these very amendments in 1974. So Congress was aware of 5 the prior coverage. We know that the Department of Labor, in the very reports which have been cited by the 6 7 Petitioner, stated both in January of 1973 and in 8 January of 1974 in their reports to Congress on the Act, 9 stated that there was prior coverage of domestics 10 employed by third parties. We know there was 11 enforcement activity by the Department of Labor against 12 such third-party employers.

So while the industry has certainly changed, there were enterprises who employed domestics, including companions, in 1974, and Congress was aware of it and stated over and over again in the preamble, in the committee reports, which indeed, the House committee report said, "Our intention is to expand the Act to the extent of Federal power."

20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: How -- putting aside 21 -- putting 552.109 aside, how is 552.3 a plausible 22 interpretation of the statute?

23 MR. BECKER: Your Honor, we think it is the 24 most plausible interpretation for the following reasons: 25 Number one, contrary to what has been

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| 1  | suggested, the language in the exemption is not          |
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| 2  | identical to the language in the extension provisions    |
| 3  | extending the minimum wage and overtime requirements.    |
| 4  | There is an important difference, and that difference is |
| 5  | the word "employment." Now that's important for several  |
| б  | reasons. Number one, of course, coverage provisions are  |
| 7  | to be read broadly and exemptions narrowly. So there's   |
| 8  | an additional word and that can would suggest it should  |
| 9  | be read as a term of limitation.                         |
| 10 | Number two, that difference must be given                |
| 11 | significance, if possible. The word should not be read   |
| 12 | to mean the same as the coverage provisions when it      |
| 13 | doesn't exist in the coverage provisions.                |
| 14 | And number three, we should avoid                        |
| 15 | redundancy. There is a reading of that unique language,  |
| 16 | "domestic service employment," which makes sense and in  |
| 17 | fact, is exactly the reading given by the Department.    |
| 18 | Congress did not intend to                               |
| 19 | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What employment                   |
| 20 | would someone who's hired by a third-party be engaged in |
| 21 | if not domestic service employment?                      |
| 22 | MR. BECKER: The word domestic service                    |
| 23 | employment is not necessary to describe what you have    |
| 24 | described, Mr. Chief Justice. If that is what the        |
| 25 | Congress intended to describe, it could have said simply |

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1 an employee employed to provide companionship services. 2 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, it could have said a 3 lot of things. But I find it -- you're hanging your 4 case upon the proposition that there is a difference 5 between domestic service employment and "employed in domestic service employment." 6 7 Wow. You know, I just don't see how there's 8 any difference in those two at all. 9 MR. BECKER: Your Honor --10 JUSTICE SCALIA: You say we have to 11 find some difference no matter how imaginative the 12 difference might be. If there were a difference, I'm 13 not sure it's the difference that you're arguing for. 14 MR. BECKER: What I'm suggesting is not that 15 our case relies or hangs on that word. What I'm 16 suggesting is if that word, that phrase, "domestic 17 service employment," is given the definition which the 18 Department of Labor itself gave it, it avoids reading 19 two phrases which are different to mean the same thing. 20 It avoids redundancy. And moreover, it is wholly 21 consistent with every other piece of evidence we have 22 about Congress's intent. 23 Even the Department of Labor suggested it surely could not have been Congress's intent to retract 24 25 coverage. The definition is consistent with that.

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| 1  | JUSTICE SCALIA: Can I ask you what your                  |
|----|--|
| 2  | proposal is with regard to the contradictory             |
| 3  | regulations, 552.3 and 552 what is it, 109?              |
| 4  | I think they are contradictory.                          |
| 5  | Now, the Agency has come up with a solution.             |
| 6  | We will interpret the former quite unrealistically to    |
| 7  | mean something that it doesn't seem to us to say but     |
| 8  | you know close enough for Government work.               |
| 9  | What is your solution for solving the                    |
| 10 | inconsistency? Are both of the regulations bad?          |
| 11 | MR. BECKER: My solution, Your Honor, has                 |
| 12 | two parts but leads to the same conclusion. Our          |
| 13 | solution is that in applying the Act which is the        |
| 14 | question here, does the Act apply to Ms. Coke's          |
| 15 | employment this Court should apply the definitional      |
| 16 | regulations for two reasons, the definitional regulation |
| 17 | for two reasons. One, it is the regulation, which no     |
| 18 | one disputes, and was promulgated in the exercise of the |
| 19 | Department's lawmaking function. The Department          |
| 20 | expressly defined and delimited its term "domestic       |
| 21 | service employment" in 552.3 and expressly said it was   |
| 22 | not doing so in the third-party regulation. So it's      |
| 23 | entitled to greater deference for that reason. But       |
| 24 | moreover   |
| 25 | JUSTICE SCALIA: What's your other reason?                |

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| 1  | MR. BECKER: It is the only definition which              |
|----|--|
| 2  | makes sense, which doesn't lead to a whole series of     |
| 3  | problems.  |
| 4  | JUSTICE SCALIA: Because of employed and                  |
| 5  | domestic employment versus                               |
| 6  | MR. BECKER: For the following                            |
| 7  | JUSTICE SCALIA: domestic employment?                     |
| 8  | MR. BECKER: For the following five reasons,              |
| 9  | Your Honor. One, it avoids reading a term in the         |
| 10 | statute, not only a term of the regulation but a term in |
| 11 | the statute, completely out of the statute. And that is  |
| 12 | the term "employment."                                   |
| 13 | Secondly, as the Department found, it is                 |
| 14 | consistent with what was Congress's clear intent, to     |
| 15 | expand and not to contract coverage.                     |
| 16 | Thirdly, if one looks at the debates, and                |
| 17 | there was extensive and vigorous debate about these      |
| 18 | amendments, the exclusive focus in Congress was the      |
| 19 | household. The opponents were exclusively concerned      |
| 20 | with the extension of coverage to the household. So      |
| 21 | applying the exemption to protect only household         |
| 22 | employers is wholly consistent with what was Congress's  |
| 23 | exclusive  |
| 24 | JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, you're getting into                |
| 25 | arguments now that are not about the regulation but      |

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they're about the statute. I'm assuming that we have regulations that are entitled to deference. And you have two regulations that are conflicting. Now, how do you decide which one prevails? Counsel for the other side says the specific governs the general, certainly an ancient prescription.

7 Counsel also says that this is an Agency 8 regulation. The Agency is given great deference in the 9 interpretation of it own regulations. And even if the Agency had said well, you know, they do conflict, we 10 11 admit it, they totally conflict, we won't even try to reinterpret 552.3, we think that's the one that's wrong, 12 13 why wouldn't we accept their statement to that effect? 14 MR. BECKER: Your Honor, of course setting 15 aside, as you do, our argument that Congress had a 16 specific intent on this question, and looking only at 17 the regulations --

JUSTICE SCALIA: That's statutory. I just want to focus on the regulation arguments, not the statutory.

21 MR. BECKER: Let me answer in several ways. 22 First, this Court has clearly held that an agency does 23 not have unbounded discretion to construe its own 24 regulations. When the terms of the regulations are 25 unambiguous, they cannot be construed away. Now here --

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| 1  | JUSTICE SCALIA: They aren't unambiguous.                   |
|----|--|
| 2  | They contradict each other. The Agency has to do           |
| 3  | something about it, and here the Agency has made a choice. |
| 4  | Even if I assume the choice was we're going to             |
| 5  | disregard 552.3, we're going to strike out those words,    |
| 6  | they were the mistake. One or the other had to be the      |
| 7  | mistake. We decide it was this one. Why shouldn't we       |
| 8  | take their word on it?                                     |
| 9  | MR. BECKER: Again, for two reasons, Your                   |
| 10 | Honor. There's a difference between conflict and           |
| 11 | ambiguity. The words are unambiguous, and it's not         |
| 12 | simply the there's two sets of words which they            |
| 13 | attempt to read out of the regulation. One are the         |
| 14 | unambiguous words that require employment by the person    |
| 15 | who's living in the home, and the other is the prefatory   |
| 16 | language which says the regulation only applies to the     |
| 17 | exemption. So in the guise of deference, the Solicitor     |
| 18 | General and the Petitioners actually suggest to this       |
| 19 | Court that it should take apart the regulation and         |
| 20 | ignore two of its three operative provisions.              |
| 21 | JUSTICE ALITO: And if they're flatly                       |
| 22 | contradictory, doesn't your argument have to be that       |
| 23 | .109(a) has lesser status? That's what it boils down       |
| 24 | to, isn't it?  |

MR. BECKER: That is certainly my primary

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1 argument, that this statute is relatively unique in that 2 it vested two very different sorts of authority in the 3 Department of Labor, one a clear law making authority to 4 actually define and delimit, to specify what the terms 5 in the law mean, and the other general --

6 I'm puzzled by what you think JUSTICE ALITO: 7 that -- what you think the Department of Labor was doing 8 when it promulgated 109(a). It was thinking in effect the following: We have the power to issue a regulation here 9 10 that has the force and effect of law, and we're going to 11 go through the procedure that would be necessary to 12 issue such a regulation. But we're not invoking that 13 power here because we want this interpretation which we 14 think is the correct interpretation of the statute not 15 to be followed -- not to get as much deference from the 16 courts as it would if we were invoking our power.

Does that make any sense? That an agencywould proceed in that way?

MR. BECKER: Your Honor, it not only makes sense, it's been the Department's pattern since the Act was adopted. That is, the Department since the Act was adopted has split its regulations into those under the exemptions -- for example the primary exemption for professional, executive and administrative employees -has split its regulations under those exemptions into

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1 those which define and delimit, into those which do not 2 define and delimit, or rather general statements of policy 3 or interpretations .

4 JUSTICE SCALIA: Yes, but interpretive 5 regulations are in other areas fully valid before the courts and entitled to Chevron deference, at least if 6 7 they're adopted by notice-and-comment rulemaking. There's 8 nothing -- what should I say -- subordinate about interpretive regulations. In fact, probably most 9 10 of the significant regulations of the most important 11 agencies are interpretive regulations.

12 MR. BECKER: The important difference here, 13 Justice Scalia, is the statute. The statute, like the 14 tax statute which was interpreted by this Court in Vogel 15 and Rowan, creates two types of authority. And not only 16 under the Fair Labor Standards Act, if you compare --17 JUSTICE SCALIA: I understand that you say 18 it creates two types, but there is no indication that it 19 intended one type of authority to be entitled to less 20 respect from the courts than the other. What do you 21 rely on for that? 22 MR. BECKER: Your Honor --23 JUSTICE SCALIA: Where is the proposition that an interpretive regulation is somehow not a 24

25 full-fledged binding regulation?

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| 1  | MR. BECKER: Well, let me qualify the                     |
|----|--|
| 2  | question, if I might. The Petitioner would suggest that  |
| 3  | we're relying on simply a label, this is in the          |
| 4  | interpretive section and the other is in the general     |
| 5  | regulation section. Far from it. We are relying on a     |
| 6  | very clear statement both in the regulations, 552.2(c),  |
| 7  | as well as in both the proposed regulations and the      |
| 8  | final regulations, which clearly state that only those   |
| 9  | in part A define and delimit. Why is that an important   |
| 10 | distinction? It's an important distinction because       |
| 11 | Congress clearly meant these two grants to be different. |
| 12 | Otherwise, why would it have granted an express power to |
| 13 | define and delimit which would otherwise be redundant of |
| 14 | the general rulemaking authority?                        |
| 15 | JUSTICE SCALIA: They're different but not                |
| 16 | necessarily of different entitled to different           |
| 17 | respect from the courts. A defined what is it,           |
| 18 | define and delimit? These are regulations that don't     |
| 19 | even purport to be an interpretation of any language in  |
| 20 | the statute, but the use of authority given to the       |
| 21 | Agency to cut out certain areas, to say the this rule    |
| 22 | won't apply to companies over this that can't            |
| 23 | possibly be an interpretation of the statute.            |
| 24 | So Congress says we're going to give the                 |
| 25 | Agency that authority. In addition, of course, we're     |

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going to give this agency the authority that every other
 Agency has, which is to interpret -- interpret the
 language of the statute.

4 MR. BECKER: Well, Your Honor, I think we 5 can safely presume that in 1974 when Congress created these two types of authority, it did so with knowledge of 6 7 the law. And this Court, if you compare its decision in 8 Addison to its decision in Skidmore, clearly itself distinguished between the exercise of those two 9 10 different interpretive or rulemaking authority. Clearly 11 in Addison, construing a very similar term in a 12 different exemption, giving the Department of Labor the 13 power to define a particular term in the exemption, said 14 that is lawmaking authority. And we will follow what 15 the Department of Labor says unless it's clearly inconsistent with the statutory -- with Congress's 16 17 intent.

18 In Skidmore, where that type of express, 19 delegated lawmaking authority to define and delimit was 20 not at issue, the Court said we will accord only that 21 degree of deference to which the regulation --JUSTICE SCALIA: Skidmore was before a 22 23 rather significant case called Chevron. 24 MR. BECKER: Absolutely, Your Honor. But it was also before the 1974 amendment. So if the question 25

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is, what was Congress intending in creating two types of
 rulemaking authority, the power to define and delimit,
 and the general rulemaking authority, I think we need to
 consider Congress's intent at that time.

5 JUSTICE SCALIA: You mean we're going to 6 divide all administrative law now into those -- those 7 regulations -- those provisions that were adopted by 8 Congress pre-Chevron and thosethat were adopted by 9 Congress post-Chevron, and for the ones adopted 10 pre-Chevron we're going to treat regulation as 11 essentially suggestions by the Agency which we give 12 Skidmore deference to, and the ones after Chevron, 13 we're going to treat differently. Do you have any case 14 of ours that suggests something like that, which seems 15 to me a very strange manner of proceeding?

16 MR. BECKER: Well, Your Honor, let me answer 17 in two ways, Your Honor. One, it would not be any case. 18 Here we have a particular statutory scheme that is -- here 19 we have the case essentially described by Justice Kennedy 20 in Hager, where we have a different statutory scheme 21 combined with a explicit statement by the Agency as to 22 which part of that scheme the Agency is operating under. 23 But the case I would cite, or the cases would be Vogel and 24 Rowan which have not --

JUSTICE BREYER: Since we're into that,

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1 we're into this fascinating subject, I thought that 2 possibly they had -- they promulgated the whole thing 3 pursuant to the rulemaking power under that particular 4 statute, because that's what it says in 552.2. It says 5 "this part" -- it doesn't say subpart, it says part -and part is 552. And both regs we are talking about are б 7 in the part. And B says interpretations, but they don't 8 mean interpretive rules, because when you look at those interpretations, they have a whole lot of numbers in 9 them, and divide by 32. Nobody thinks that Congress 10 11 meant in this statute divide by 32, as opposed by divide 12 by 33. 13 So as I read that, I thought the whole thing 14 is promulgated pursuant to their rulemaking authority. 15 Part A has more general things. Part B has more 16 specific things. Where am I wrong? 17 MR. BECKER: Well, I think the question, 18 Your Honor, is which of the regulations were promulgated 19 pursuant to the specific authority --20 JUSTICE BREYER: All of them. All of them 21 is what it says unless I missed something. 22 MR. BECKER: Well, I think what you missed 23 is that a simple citation to the exemption does not translate into an exercise of the power to define and 24 delimit. Because the Department was very, very specific 25

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| 1  | as to when it was exercising that power. In 552.2(c) it  |
|----|--|
| 2  | says the definitions required by the legislation are     |
| 3  | provided in the following sections and it enumerates     |
| 4  | them and it does not include the third-party regulation. |
| 5  | Now Petitioners would suggest well, that's               |
| 6  | just definitions. They also have the power to delimit.   |
| 7  | However, both the notice of proposed rulemaking and the  |
| 8  | notice of final rulemaking said that we are exercising   |
| 9  | our power to define and delimit in subpart A.            |
| 10 | JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. I got the point.                   |
| 11 | MR. BECKER: Subpart B is different. So                   |
| 12 | JUSTICE BREYER: Right. Right.                            |
| 13 | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Why are you sure                  |
| 14 | there's a conflict in the first place? You know, 552.3   |
| 15 | says that the term "domestic service employment," refers |
| 16 | to services performed in the home of the employer. It    |
| 17 | doesn't say it only refers to that. And then you go      |
| 18 | down and 109 says it also includes employees who are     |
| 19 | employed by a third-party.                               |
| 20 | I mean, can't they be reconciled in that                 |
| 21 | way?   |
| 22 | MR. BECKER: I don't think so, Your Honor.                |
| 23 | And it's certainly not the way that the                  |
| 24 | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: It's not the way the              |
|    |  |

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1 to them, anyway. So --2 (Laughter.) 3 MR. BECKER: That's correct. But the 4 regulation -- 552.3 defines a statutory term which 5 only exists in the exemption, "domestic service 6 employment." 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yes, but it says it refers to something. It doesn't say as many of these 8 regulations and statutes do, is, you know, it "is 9 10 defined as." 11 And particularly when you're confronted with 12 what would otherwise be a conflict, maybe "refers to" should be read to mean "includes" rather than is defined 13 14 as. MR. BECKER: Well, I think we have to read 15 16 the definitional regulations together. That is, all of 17 the terms in the exemption, "companionship services," 18 "babysitting services," "casual basis," "domestic service 19 employment," are all defined in the set of regulations, 20 point 3, point 4, point 5, point 6. And it is clear 21 from the prefatory language of each one that what the 22 Department of Labor intended to do was define the terms 23 in the statute. 24 And so when it said that that term "refers 25 to" --

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| 1  | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well it is                         |
|----|---|
| 2  | interesting when you look at I mean, they're it's         |
| 3  | a good point. It's interesting when you look at the       |
| 4  | other definitions, the babysitting, it says this          |
| 5  | provision "shall mean." Here it just says it "refers to." |
| 6  | Let's see, the other ones casual basis,                   |
| 7  | shall mean. Companionship services, "shall mean."         |
| 8  | This one doesn't say "shall mean." It says it             |
| 9  | refers to this. I'm just wondering if that's something    |
| 10 | that suggests it's not intended to be as exclusive as     |
| 11 | the other definitions.                                    |
| 12 | MR. BECKER: I do not believe so, Your                     |
| 13 | Honor. It is an exercise of the power to define the       |
| 14 | term and I don't think we can take that language "refers  |
| 15 | to" to be non-exclusive. When the Department said         |
| 16 | "referred to" it was defining a statutory term as it said |
| 17 | it was. If we have any doubt about what the Department    |
| 18 | intended, it actually of course reiterated that           |
| 19 | definition under the interpretive classification. And     |
| 20 | it again said that the term "refers to," "is defined as," |
| 21 | employment by the household. If we had any doubt, even    |
| 22 | after that reiteration                                    |
| 23 | JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Becker                              |
| 24 | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, there it says                  |
| 25 | there it says includes. And if you're talking about       |

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1 552.101, there it says the term includes persons 2 frequently referred to as "private household workers." 3 MR. BECKER: I'm referring to an earlier 4 provision of the same regulation, not the reference to 5 "private household workers", but where it states that the definition includes those individuals who are employed 6 7 by the household, that is in 552.101(a). But if we had any further doubt, the -- that regulation refers to, as 8 9 its source of the language, the regulation adopted under 10 the Social Security Act, now 20 C.F.R. 404.1057. It was 11 originally numbered differently, but at the time, in 12 1974, that regulation which was explicitly the source of 13 the language the Department of Labor used, said not 14 once, not twice, but three times, that the individual 15 had to be employed by the household. 16 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. -- Mr. Becker, if 17 there is room for the Agency to read this statute either 18 way, one way that the third-party employees would come 19 under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the other that they 20 would not be treated the same way as the person 21 employed by the elderly person himself or herself. But

if the concern of Congress in making this exemption was for the householder with limited funds, if the Agency is subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act, it's going to end up being the householder paying for it anyway.

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| 1  | So why isn't the most reasonable                          |
|----|---|
| 2  | interpretation of what Congress meant by the exemption    |
| 3  | that the exemption would apply across the board, so that  |
| 4  | all workers in this category would be exempt?             |
| 5  | MR. BECKER: Your Honor, setting aside, of                 |
| б  | course, all the reasons about Congress's intent in 552.3  |
| 7  | which we've already explained, we would not say that      |
| 8  | that there is any credible evidence in the legislative    |
| 9  | history or the text of the Act to suggest that cost was   |
| 10 | a factor.   |
| 11 | And let me explain why. The Department for                |
| 12 | the first time when it promulgated its advisory           |
| 13 | memorandum suggested that this was the basis of the third |
| 14 | party regulation. It said nothing of the sort in 1975.    |
| 15 | As support for the assertion it cited four isolated       |
| 16 | comments in the legislative history. None of them         |
| 17 | except the last and there is only one of them             |
| 18 | related in any way to the exemption. The one that         |
| 19 | related to the exemption in fact directly supports our    |
| 20 | position, because it describes those people who are not   |
| 21 | within the exemption as the professional domestics.       |
| 22 | So we don't think that there's any basis for              |
| 23 | suggesting that cost was the underlying rationale; and,   |
| 24 | in fact, it is really implausible. Because at the same    |
| 25 | time, for example, Congress extended the provisions of    |

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| 1  | the Act which covered nursing homes. At the same time,   |
|----|--|
| 2  | as has been pointed out, Congress only exempted casual   |
| 3  | babysitters. Now we would submit that if Congress was    |
| 4  | concerned about cost, in creating this babysitter-and-   |
| 5  | companionship exemption, the primary intended            |
| 6  | beneficiaries of that would have been working families   |
| 7  | where both people worked and therefore who required a    |
| 8  | full-time babysitter                                     |
| 9  | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.               |
| 10 | MR. BECKER: but a full-time babysitter is                |
| 11 | not covered.   |
| 12 | Thank you very much.                                     |
| 13 | CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Farr, you have                |
| 14 | three minutes remaining.                                 |
| 15 | REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF H. BARTOW FARR,                     |
| 16 | ON BEHALF OF PETITIONERS                                 |
| 17 | MR. FARR: Thank you Mr. Chief Justice.                   |
| 18 | Respondent in response to Justice Scalia's               |
| 19 | question about how Respondent would reconcile the        |
| 20 | regulation 552.3 and 109(a) actually did not I believe   |
| 21 | attempt any reconciliation. If I understand              |
| 22 | Respondent's position correctly, it's simply that 109(a) |
| 23 | has to be invalidated and 552.3 stands in its entirety.  |
| 24 | I think that's incorrect for several                     |
| 25 | reasons. First of all, the basis for it is essentially   |

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1 this apparent distinction between the define-and-delimit 2 authority and the more general authority to enact 3 necessary rules and regulations. But, in fact, as 4 Justice Breyer pointed out in his question, both grants 5 of authority were invoked by the Department when it enacted both regulations simultaneously, not limited to 6 7 either subpart A or subpart B, and for the reasons that Justice Alito points out, it is a very odd thing to 8 9 attribute to the Department to say that it would 10 exercise two different legislative powers in different 11 parts of the -- of the regulations. There's no reason it would do that. 12 The 13 subpart B regulations clearly are regulations that 14 delimit the terms of the exemption in 213(a)(15). 15 There's no question about that. So why in fact if it 16 was doing what Congress authorized it to do under 17 213(a)(15), would it instead of relying on the grant of 18 authority in that provision, rely on some other general 19 grant of authority? It makes no logical sense to 20 attribute that to the Department.

And it seems to me, in -- excuse me -- in fact, that that argument points up one of the difficulties here. It seems to me that the arguments here are a way of simply trying to push the Department aside so that the courts can ultimately do the final job

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1 of exposition on this exemption. That is not only 2 contrary to the basic principle of Chevron, which is 3 that -- where there is ambiguity in the statute, or room 4 for interpretation, the agencies are given the opportunity 5 to do that within reasonable bounds; it is also contrary 6 to the statute. 7 It is clear as I said at the beginning of my 8 argument, the Department was the Agency chosen by 9 Congress to do the work of defining and delimiting the 10 exemption. 11 Now I'd like to say just one other thing in 12 response to Justice Stevens' question about the 13 particular nature of the litigation. This is a suit for 14 damages. It is a suit claiming willful damages. 15 Thank you, Your Honor. 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel. 17 The case is submitted. 18 (Whereupon the case in the above-entitled 19 matter was submitted at 12:05 p.m.) 20 21 22 23 24 25

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