

EXHIBIT 1-E

DECLARATION OF AYANNA THOMAS

I, Ayanna Thomas, declare as follows:

1. I am the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences on the Medford/Somerville campus of Tufts University in Massachusetts. I have held this position since February 2025. Before that, I served as the Dean of Research for the School of Arts and Sciences. I am also a professor in the Department of Psychology.

2. As the Dean, I have personal knowledge of the contents of this declaration, or have knowledge of the matters based on my review of information and records gathered by Tufts University personnel, and could testify thereto.

3. Rümeysa Öztürk has made excellent and timely progress in the Child Study and Human Development Ph.D. program. Ms. Öztürk can complete her degree requirements upon her return to Tufts. Ms. Öztürk will be able to schedule her qualified review (a meeting with her advisors to discuss her scholarship) whenever she becomes available to do so to determine the appropriate scope of research for her dissertation. Following that meeting, Ms. Öztürk will be able to schedule a dissertation proposal hearing with her advisors and complete her degree.

4. As we approach the end of the academic year, I note that Ms. Öztürk has been at Tufts for five years and that this will be her final year in the program. I know from my own experience as a Ph.D. candidate and from advising many other Ph.D. candidates, that the final year of any Ph.D. program tends to be the busiest, with milestones and deadlines that compound on one another. This year will be the culmination of Ms. Öztürk's studies, and she has number of teaching and research obligations to fulfill on campus this summer.

5. Ms. Öztürk is scheduled to teach a course this summer titled “Introduction to Children’s Media” in the Pre-College Program at Tufts University College. Ms. Öztürk has taught this course during previous summer terms and would receive four thousand three hundred thirty-two dollars (\$4,332.00) for teaching such course. She is also scheduled to receive five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) in support through a private grant that has been awarded to her advisor, Dr. Sara Johnson. In addition, Ms. Öztürk has been awarded a Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Summer Fellowship in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to continue to support her studies through the summer.

6. This grant and fellowship support will allow Ms. Öztürk to continue the data collection and interviews necessary to complete her dissertation research. All awards, grants, and salary will be available to Ms. Öztürk upon her return.

7. The University is also able to provide housing on campus for Ms. Öztürk to ensure that she has a safe place to resume her studies.

8. The University is looking forward to Ms. Öztürk’s return so that she can complete her studies.

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

Executed on May 1, 2025, at Tufts University.



AYANNA THOMAS