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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
AND THE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEPOSITION OF: [REDACTED]

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Washington, D.C.

1 The deposition in the above matter was held in room 2237, Rayburn House Office
2 Building, commencing at 10:02 a.m.

3 Present from the Committee on the Judiciary: Representatives Jordan, Biggs,
4 Raskin, Moskowitz, and Crockett.

5 Present from the Committee on House Administration: Representatives Steil,
6 Bice, Miller, and Morelle.

7 Present from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:
8 Representatives Jordan, Biggs, and Crockett.

1 Appearances:

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5 For the COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY:

6

7 [REDACTED], DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

8 [REDACTED], PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

9 [REDACTED], PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

10 [REDACTED], DIGITAL DIRECTOR

11 [REDACTED], CHIEF COUNSEL FOR OVERSIGHT

12 [REDACTED], PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

13 [REDACTED], PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

14 [REDACTED], MINORITY CHIEF OVERSIGHT COUNSEL

15 [REDACTED], MINORITY SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS

16 AND SENIOR ADVISOR

17 [REDACTED], MINORITY GENERAL COUNSEL

18 [REDACTED] MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL AND SENIOR ADVISOR

19 [REDACTED], MINORITY LEGAL INTERN

1 For the COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION:

2

3 [REDACTED], GENERAL COUNSEL

4 [REDACTED], PARLIAMENTARIAN

5 [REDACTED] MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

6 [REDACTED], MINORITY PROFESSIONAL STAFF

7 [REDACTED], MINORITY SENIOR COUNSEL - ELECTIONS

8 [REDACTED], MINORITY COUNSEL

9

10

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12 For the COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM:

13

14 [REDACTED], SENIOR ADVISOR TO CHAIRMAN COMER

15 [REDACTED], CHIEF OVERSIGHT COUNSEL

16 [REDACTED], COUNSEL

17 [REDACTED], MINORITY LEGAL INTERN

18 [REDACTED], MINORITY COUNSEL

19 [REDACTED], MINORITY COUNSEL

20 [REDACTED], MINORITY SENIOR COUNSEL

21 [REDACTED], MINORITY COUNSEL

22 [REDACTED], MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL

23 [REDACTED], MINORITY DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL - OVERSIGHT

1 For [REDACTED]:

2

3 DANNY C. ONORATO, ESQ.

4 TARA N. TIGHE, ESQ.

5 Schertler, Onorato, Mead & Sears, LLP

6 555 13th Street NW, Suite 500 West

7 Washington, D.C. 20004

1 [REDACTED]: Good morning.

2 This is a deposition of [REDACTED], senior workflow specialist at ActBlue.

3 The Committee on House Administration, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the
4 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform are charged with upholding
5 fundamental American civil liberties protecting the integrity of American elections.

6 In light of allegations that online fundraising platforms that serve as conduits for
7 political donations have accepted fraudulent donations from domestic and foreign
8 sources, the committees are conducting oversight to inform potential legislative reforms.

9 To further the committees' oversight and legislative reforms, the chairmen
10 requested a deposition with [REDACTED]

11 On June 25th, 2025, the committees issued subpoenas for [REDACTED] to appear at a
12 deposition today, July 15th.

13 [REDACTED] Exhibit No. 1
14 was marked for identification.]

15 [REDACTED]: I've marked the June 25th, 2025, subpoenas as exhibit No. 1.

16 On July 8th, the committees noticed today's deposition. I'll mark the July 8th
17 notices as exhibit No. 2.

18 [REDACTED] Exhibit No. 2
19 was marked for identification.]

20 [REDACTED]: Would the witness please state your name for the record?

21 The Witness. [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]: And I understand that you're represented today by personal
23 counsel.

24 Could personal counsel please state your name for the record?

25 Mr. Onorato. Good morning. Danny Onorato.

1 Ms. Tighe. And Tara Tighe.

2 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

3 My name is [REDACTED], and I'm with Chairman Jordan's Judiciary staff.

4 I'll now have everyone else from the committees here in the room introduce
5 themselves as well.

6 Mr. Biggs. Andy Biggs, Arizona 5.

7 [REDACTED] - [REDACTED], counsel for Chairman Comer.

8 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], general counsel for House Administration
9 Committee.

10 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], with Ranking Member Raskin on House
11 Judiciary.

12 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], counsel with the Committee on House
13 Administration Democrats.

14 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], with Ranking Member Garcia for House
15 Oversight.

16 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Ranking Member Raskin with House Judiciary.

17 [REDACTED] - [REDACTED], chief counsel, Ranking Member Joe Morelle's staff.

18 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], House Judiciary Committee Democratic staff.

19 [REDACTED] - [REDACTED], House Judiciary Committee Democratic staff.

20 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], House Oversight Democratic staff.

21 [REDACTED] - [REDACTED], House Oversight Democratic staff.

22 [REDACTED] - [REDACTED], House Oversight Committee majority.

23 [REDACTED] - [REDACTED], House Admin majority.

24 Mrs. Bice. Congresswoman Stephanie Bice, House Administration.

25 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], with Chairman Jordan's staff at House Judiciary

1 Committee.

2 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Chairman Jordan's staff, House Judiciary

3 Committee.

4 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Chairman Jordan's staff, House Judiciary.

5 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Chairman Jordan's staff, House Judiciary.

6 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Chairman Jordan's staff, House Judiciary.

7 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], House Oversight minority.

8 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], Oversight majority.

9 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], with Ranking Member Raskin's staff.

10 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], House Oversight Committee.

11 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], House Oversight minority.

12 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], House Oversight Democratic staff.

13 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

14 I'll now review the ground rules and guidelines that we will follow during today's
15 deposition.

16 The committees will conduct today's deposition in accordance with the House's
17 Regulations for the Use of Deposition Authority, which we have provided a copy to your
18 counsel.

19 Our questioning will proceed in rounds. The majority will ask questions first for 1
20 hour. Then the minority will have an opportunity to ask questions for an equal period of
21 time if they choose.

22 There will be two staff counsel per side asking the questions. To the extent
23 Members have questions for the witness, they will be propounded during their side's
24 respective rounds.

25 The clock will stop if the witness needs to confer with counsel, when counsel for

1 the witness is speaking, and when Members are speaking during the opposite side's
2 round.

3 We'll alternate back and forth until there are no more questions and the
4 deposition is over.

5 We ordinarily take a short break at the end of each hour, but if you would like to
6 take a break apart from that, please just let us know.

7 As you can see, there is an official court reporter taking down everything we say to
8 make a written record, so we ask that you give verbal responses to all questions.

9 Do you understand that?

10 The Witness. On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in
11 reliance on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer,
12 and I must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

13 [REDACTED]. So the court reporter can take down a clear record, please try and
14 speak clearly so the court reporter can understand and so the people at the end of the
15 table can hear you.

16 It is important that we do not talk over one another or interrupt each other if we
17 can help it, and that goes for everybody present at today's deposition.

18 We want you to answer our questions in a complete and truthful manner. If you
19 do not understand one of our questions or need clarification about what we are seeking,
20 please let us know.

21 If you do not know the answer to a question or do not remember, please tell us
22 what you do know and remember. It is okay to tell us if you learned information from
23 someone else; just indicate how you came to know the information.

24 If there are things you do not know or cannot remember, just say so, and please
25 inform us who, to the best of your knowledge, might be able to provide a more complete

1 answer to the question.

2 By law, you are required to answer questions from Congress truthfully. Do you
3 understand that?

4 The Witness. On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in
5 reliance on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer,
6 and I must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

7 [REDACTED]: This applies to questions posed by congressional staff in a
8 deposition. Do you understand this?

9 The Witness. On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in
10 reliance on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer,
11 and I must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

12 [REDACTED]: Witnesses that knowingly provide false testimony could be subject
13 to criminal prosecution for perjury. This includes, for example, stating that you do not
14 recall or remember something when, in fact, you do.

15 Do you understand this?

16 The Witness. On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in
17 reliance on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer,
18 and I must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

19 [REDACTED]: Furthermore, you cannot tell half-truths or exclude information
20 necessary to make statements accurate. You are required to provide all information
21 that would make your response truthful. A deliberate failure to disclose information can
22 constitute a false statement.

23 Do you understand this?

24 The Witness. On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in
25 reliance on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I'm not a lawyer,

1 and I must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

2 [REDACTED]: The Federal Rules of Evidence, Criminal and Civil Procedure are not
3 applicable for today's deposition.

4 Under the House deposition regulations, a witness's attorney may not instruct a
5 witness to refuse to answer a question except to preserve a privilege. The House
6 recognizes constitutionally based privileges and not necessarily those privileges derived
7 from common law.

8 Finally, I will make note for the Members and staff here today that the content of
9 what we discuss is confidential under the House deposition regulations.

10 Under the rules, the chairmen and ranking minority members shall consult before
11 any release of the testimony transcripts, including portions thereof. This means it is a
12 violation of House and committee rules to disclose content of the deposition prior to its
13 official release.

14 For this reason, the marked exhibits that we will use today will remain with the
15 court reporter so that they can go in the official transcript, and any copy of those exhibits
16 will be returned to us when we wrap up.

17 Before we begin the first round of questions, we'll afford the minority an
18 opportunity to make any opening remarks.

19 [REDACTED]: We'll just say thank you for taking the time to be here today to
20 testify before our committees and also make you aware that this deposition is being
21 recorded.

22 Thanks.

23 The Witness. On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in
24 reliance on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer,
25 and I must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

1 ██████████: Mr. Onorato, do you have any opening remarks?

2 Mr. Onorato. Good morning.

3 My name is Danny Onorato. Tara Tighe and I represent ██████████.

4 When first contacted by your committees, ██████████, through counsel, consistently
5 expressed his intent to cooperate with this investigation.

6 However, on April 24th of 2025, President Trump issued a Presidential
7 memorandum directing the Attorney General of the United States to investigate
8 ██████████ employer, ActBlue, for the same issues being investigated by these
9 committees. President Trump directed the Attorney General to report the results of the
10 investigation within an expedited timeframe of 180 days.

11 In light of the pending DOJ investigation, we, as ██████████ lawyers, asked the
12 committees to postpone this deposition until after the parallel Department of Justice
13 inquiry was completed. The request for a modest adjournment was rejected by the
14 committees, while at the same time the committees pledged to work, quote,
15 "collaboratively" with the DOJ.

16 Given these developments, the committees' insistence on proceeding today leaves
17 ██████████ with no choice but to follow the advice of his lawyers and assert his Fifth
18 Amendment right under the United States Constitution.

19 In so doing, he follows in the footsteps of many other Americans that appear in
20 proceedings before Congress and elsewhere by invoking fundamental rights guaranteed
21 by the Constitution.

22 We want to emphasize that asserting the Fifth Amendment privilege does not
23 imply that ██████████ has engaged in any wrongdoing. In fact, to the contrary, as our
24 Supreme Court recognized more than a century ago, the Fifth Amendment is a, quote,
25 "safeguard" -- I'm sorry -- is a, quote, "protection to the innocent and a safeguard against

1 heedless, unfounded, or tyrannical prosecutions."

2 [REDACTED], therefore, will respectfully decline to answer any questions that might
3 be posed to him by this committee.

4 Thank you.

5 [REDACTED]: Thank you, Mr. Onorato.

6 The court reporter will now swear the witness in.

7 The Reporter. Do you solemnly declare and affirm under the penalty of perjury
8 that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
9 but the truth?

10 The Witness. I do.

11 [REDACTED]: The clock now reads 10:11 a.m. We'll start the first round of
12 questions.

13 EXAMINATION

14 BY [REDACTED]:

15 Q [REDACTED], when did you start working at ActBlue?

16 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
17 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
18 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

19 Q During your tenure at ActBlue, what positions have you held?

20 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
21 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
22 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

23 Q Is it accurate to say that you supervised the fraud-prevention team?

24 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
25 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I

1 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

2 Q How many individuals work on the fraud-prevention team at ActBlue?

3 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
4 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
5 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

6 Q [REDACTED], why is ActBlue so bad at stopping fraudulent donations?

7 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
8 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
9 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

10 Q Why does ActBlue review so many fewer transactions for fraud than an
11 ordinary website selling physical goods?

12 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
13 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
14 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

15 Q Does ActBlue willingly turn a blind eye to fraud so that campaigns can
16 increase fundraising on ActBlue?

17 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
18 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
19 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

20 Q Have you ever instructed individuals at ActBlue to turn a blind eye to fraud?

21 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
22 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
23 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

24 Q Have you ever been part of a conspiracy to launder foreign money into
25 fraudulent donations for campaigns using ActBlue?

1 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
2 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
3 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

4 Q Does ActBlue instruct donors or campaigns about how they can evade
5 ActBlue's fraud-prevention processes?

6 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
7 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
8 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

9 Q Is Sift capable of detecting fraudulent transactions on ActBlue?

10 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
11 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
12 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

13 Q In 2024, according to documents that the committees have received, in your
14 goals you included allowing more fraud on ActBlue. Why did you do that?

15 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
16 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
17 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

18 Q According to documents produced to the committee, ActBlue took a, quote,
19 "more lenient approach," end quote, to fraud in 2024 by increasing Sift score thresholds.

20 Why did ActBlue take a more lenient approach to fraud in 2024?

21 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
22 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
23 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

24 Q Did ActBlue take a more lenient approach to fraud in 2024 to increase
25 donations to campaigns?

1 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
2 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
3 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

4 Q Did ActBlue make a concerted effort to allow more fraud on the platform in
5 2024?

6 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
7 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
8 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

9 Q Have ActBlue executives ever instructed you to allow more fraud on the
10 platform or weaken ActBlue's fraud-prevention defenses?

11 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
12 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
13 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

14 Q In 2024, did ActBlue ban gift card donations, prepaid donations, and foreign
15 donations and newly require CVVs because it was worried about legal scrutiny of fraud
16 committed using these mechanisms?

17 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
18 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
19 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

20 Q Why did ActBlue exempt recurring donations from the CVV requirement?

21 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
22 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
23 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

24 Q Does ActBlue only make fraud-prevention policy changes that positively
25 affect the number of donations on its platform?

1 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
2 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
3 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

4 Q Does ActBlue not institute fraud-prevention policy changes if they would
5 negatively affect the number of donations on the platform?

6 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
7 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
8 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

9 Q How often does ActBlue weaken its fraud-prevention standards?

10 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
11 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
12 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

13 Q Does ActBlue deliberately have weaker fraud-prevention defenses for
14 donations made using third-party payment apps like PayPal?

15 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
16 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
17 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

18 Q How many times has ActBlue determined that campaigns have used
19 ActBlue's Entry Mode to directly input fraudulent donations to themselves?

20 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
21 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
22 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

23 ██████████: ██████████, can we go off the record for a second?

24 ██████████: Yep. We can go off the record.

25 [Discussion off the record.]

1 [REDACTED]: We'll go back on the record.

2 BY [REDACTED]:

3 Q How many times has ActBlue determined that bad actors have coordinated a
4 big fraud attack where each individual donation fell below the Sift threshold?

5 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
6 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
7 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

8 Q How many times have bad actors hacked ActBlue Express Accounts and then
9 made fraudulent donations on ActBlue?

10 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
11 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
12 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

13 Q Why doesn't ActBlue cooperate with internal bank investigations of
14 potentially fraudulent transactions?

15 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
16 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I am not a lawyer, and I
17 must follow my lawyer's advice in this matter.

18 Q Do you have any information regarding why ActBlue placed Zane Ahmad on
19 leave because he chose to blow the whistle on pervasive fraud and misconduct at
20 ActBlue?

21 A On the advice of counsel, I must respectfully decline to answer, in reliance
22 on my right under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. I'm not a lawyer, and I
23 must rely on my lawyer's advice in this matter.

24 Q Do you have any information regarding why seven senior staff resigned in
25 February of 2025 from ActBlue?

1 DOJ's investigation of ActBlue, which was initiated at the direction of President Donald
2 Trump's April 24th, 2025, executive order.

3 Just a couple weeks after President Trump's executive order, congressional
4 Republicans sent a letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi stating that they looked forward
5 to -- and this is a quote -- "working collaboratively," end quote, with DOJ in investigating
6 ActBlue.

7 With this blatant coordination between DOJ and Congress to investigate ActBlue
8 at the demand of President Trump, it is not surprising that our witness here is invoking
9 their Fifth Amendment privilege.

10 ActBlue had been voluntarily cooperating with our committees until President
11 Trump directed DOJ to investigate them in an executive order.

12 In reviewing ActBlue's productions and responses to congressional requests, it is
13 clear that ActBlue is not hiding any relevant information. In fact, ActBlue has produced
14 nearly 3,500 pages of documents in response to the committees' inquiry, with minimal
15 redactions.

16 If our committees are truly concerned over campaign fundraising issues and
17 protecting Americans from fraud, then we would encourage them to expand this
18 investigation to include WinRed, the Republican fundraising platform that has preyed on
19 senior citizens with deceptive tactics.

20 Further, if the majority truly cared about foreign interference in our elections, as it
21 has claimed in its interim report, they would join committee Democrats in investigating
22 other issues, such as President Trump pressuring the Qatari royal family for a \$400 million
23 ultra-luxury jetliner.

24 And if they cared about corruption, they would join the minority in investigating
25 President Trump's retribution against law firms and rewarding wealthy donors with

1 pardons. And that's just to name a few examples.

2 Instead, the majority has failed to conduct any oversight of this administration or
3 call a single administration witness to any transcribed interview, deposition, or hearing.

4 So, again, thank you for being here.

5 And, with that, we will go off the record.

6 [REDACTED]. Thank you.

7 [Whereupon, at 10:32 a.m., the deposition was concluded.]

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Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name

Date

