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10 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

11 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

12 O.E.O.,

13 Petitioner,

14 v.

15 Fred Figueroa, et al.,

16 Respondents.

No. 2:25-cv-02283-PHX-DWL (MTM)

**RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER
AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

18 Respondents Fred Figueroa, Warden, Eloy Detention Center; John E. Cantu,
19 Phoenix Field Office; Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs
20 Enforcement ("ICE"); Robin Dunn Marcos, Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement
21 ("ORR"); Andrew Gradison, Assistant Secretary for the Administration of Children and
22 Families; Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary of Health and Human Services ("HHS");
23 Lucibel Gast, Federal Field Specialist at the Office of Refugee Resettlement; and Kristi
24 Noem, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") ("Respondents"),
25 by the through undersigned counsel, respond in opposition to Petitioner's Motion for
26 Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction (Doc. 2) and to the Petition for
27 Appointment of A Guardian Ad Litem for Petitioner O.E.O. (Doc. 3).¹

28 ¹ Respondents have not been served with the Petition. Neither the Petition nor the Motion

I. Factual Background.

Petitioner is a native and citizen of Afghanistan. Exhibit A, Form I-213 Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien. He entered without inspection and without a valid entry document at the Calexico West Port of Entry on November 12, 2024. He presented an Afghan passport and an Afghan national identity card that listed a date of birth that made him 21 years of age but claimed that he had given the authorities in Afghanistan a false month, day and year of birth in order to secure the passport and was only 15 years old. *Id.*; Ex. B, Passport; Ex. C, National Identity Card. Due to the conflicting accounts of Petitioner's age, he was issued a notice to appear in general removal proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1229(a) and was referred to ORR. *Id.*

ORR submitted the Petitioner's passport and national identity card to the State Department on November 18, 2025, and the response from the cultural advisers at the Afghanistan Affairs Unit ("AAU") confirmed that the documents appeared to be genuine and valid. *See* Ex. D, ORR Memo of Age Re-Determination dated May 21, 2025. However, Petitioner continued to insist that his date of birth was different than the date that appears on his passport and national identity card. ORR contacted Petitioner's mother, who confirmed the date of birth claimed by Petitioner. Ex. D. She also provided ORR with additional documents, including a Tazkira (another form of identification used in Afghanistan), and later, with medical records and school records. Ex. D. All of the documents were then submitted to the State Department. Ex. D. The AAU again concluded that the passport and national identity card appeared to be genuine, but that the date of birth

for Temporary Restraining Order attached to the Court's order directing Respondents to respond to the Motion for Temporary Restraining Order (Doc. 19) includes the exhibits referenced in the filings. Respondents also have not received an unredacted copy of the Petition or Motion. The courtesy copies emailed by Petitioner's counsel are the redacted versions and do not include the exhibits. Thus, Respondents' ability to respond is hampered as they have no access to the exhibits or declarations upon which the Petition and Motion are based and given the expedited basis on which Respondents were ordered to respond, coupled with the holiday weekend, counsel has been unable to obtain declarations to support this response or to verify the information alleged in the petition or motion.

1 section on the Tazkira “appeared to be digitally manipulated and fraudulent.” Ex. D. The
2 AAU could not authenticate the medical record because it was written on a prescription
3 pad with the date of birth written in place of a prescription and could not authenticate the
4 school records because they did not have an attestation from the Afghan Ministry of
5 Education or a verification by the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ex. D.

6 A dental forensic examination was completed on May 8, 2025, which indicated at
7 77.55% empirical statistical probability that Petitioner had attained 18 years of age. Ex. E,
8 Dental Age Assessment Report.

9 Given the totality of the evidence, including the passport and national security card,
10 the finding of digital manipulation on the Tazkira, the inability to authenticate the records
11 provided by Petitioner’s mother, and the dental age assessment indicting a 77.55%
12 probability that Petitioner was at least 18 years old, ORR determined that Petitioner was
13 no longer eligible for placement in an ORR-funded facility for minors. Ex. D. He was
14 transferred to ICE custody and placed in expedited removal proceedings pursuant to 8
15 U.S.C. § 1225(b). At Petitioner’s counsel’s request, ICE has reviewed Petitioner’s evidence
16 and determined that Petitioner is an adult. Doc. 2 at ¶ 52. Petitioner has claimed a fear of
17 return to Afghanistan and is awaiting an interview with an asylum officer. Ex. A.

18 **II. Legal Framework Governing Unaccompanied Alien Children.**

19 Before the 2002 creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the care and
20 placement of unaccompanied alien children (“UAC”) in the United States was the
21 responsibility of the Office of Juvenile Affairs in the former Immigration and
22 Naturalization Service (“INS”). *See F.L. v. Thompson*, 293 F. Supp. 2d 86, 96 (D.D.C.
23 2003). In 2002, INS’s functions were split between the enforcement of federal immigration
24 law, which was left to DHS, and the care of immigrant children, which was transferred to
25 the HHS. *See* Homeland Security Act, Pub. L. No. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002)
26 (“HSA”). Those laws were amended again in 2008 through the William Wilberforce
27 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (“TVPPRA”), further separating DHS’s and HHS’s
28 functions by placing the care and custody of children under HHS’s jurisdiction and

1 clarifying the respective roles and responsibilities of the two agencies with respect to
2 UACs.

3 **A. The Homeland Security Act of 2002.**

4 With the enactment of the HSA, Congress created DHS and transferred most
5 immigration functions formerly performed by INS to DHS and its components, including
6 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S.
7 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”). *See* HSA; Department of Homeland
8 Security Reorganization Plan Modification of January 30, 2003, H.R. Doc. No. 108-32
9 (2003) (also set forth as a note to 6 U.S.C. § 542). Notably, Congress transferred to [ORR]
10 the responsibility for the care of any UAC “who [is] in Federal custody by reason of [his
11 or her] immigration status.” 6 U.S.C. §§ 279(a), (b)(1)(A). The HSA also transferred to
12 ORR the responsibility for making all placement decisions for UACs, required ORR to
13 coordinate these placement decisions with DHS, and required ORR to ensure that UACs
14 are not released upon their own recognizance. *See* 6 U.S.C. §§ 279(b)(1)(C), (D), (b)(2).

15 **B. The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008.**

16 The TVPRA, which was signed into law on December 23, 2008, contains statutory
17 protections relating to UACs and codified protections related to the processing and
18 detention of UACs. The TVPRA built on the split of duties in the HSA and further requires
19 that “the care and custody of all unaccompanied alien children, including responsibility for
20 their detention, where appropriate, shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of Health and
21 Human Services.” 8 U.S.C. § 1232(b)(1). It also provides that in most instances, “any
22 department or agency of the Federal Government that has an unaccompanied alien child in
23 custody shall transfer the custody of such child to the Secretary of Health and Human
24 Services not later than 72 hours after determining that such child is an unaccompanied alien
25 child.” 8 U.S.C. § 1232(b)(3).

26 The TVPRA makes clear that HHS is responsible for all placement decisions for
27 UACs in its custody, and for conducting suitability assessments for those placements. 8
28 U.S.C. § 1232(c). It requires that UACs in HHS custody be “promptly placed in the least

1 restrictive setting that is in the best interest of the child,” and it provides guidelines for the
 2 reunification of UACs with their families by HHS. 8 U.S.C. § 1232(c)(2), (3).

3 The protections TVPRA affords UACs apply after the HHS, in consultation with
 4 DHS, determines that the applicant is indeed a child. 8 U.S.C. § 1232(b)(a). Importantly
 5 for this litigation, the TVPRA provides:

6 The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the
 7 Secretary of Homeland Security, shall develop procedures to make a prompt
 8 determination of the age of an alien, which shall be used by the Secretary of
 9 Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services for
 10 children in their respective custody. At a minimum, these procedures shall
 take into account multiple forms of evidence, including the non-exclusive
 use of radiographs, to determine the age of the unaccompanied alien.

11 8 U.S.C. § 1232(b)(4).

12 **C. ORR’s age determination procedures.**

13 Pursuant to § 1232(b)(4), ORR developed age determination procedures for
 14 individuals without lawful immigration status. *See* ORR Unaccompanied Alien Children
 15 Bureau Policy Guide (“ORR Guide”), available at [https://acf.gov/orr/policy-](https://acf.gov/orr/policy-guidance/unaccompanied-children-bureau-policy-guide)
 16 [guidance/unaccompanied-children-bureau-policy-guide](https://acf.gov/orr/policy-guidance/unaccompanied-children-bureau-policy-guide) (last visited July 6, 2025). The
 17 ORR Guide provides that “HHS may make age determinations of an [UAC] when they are
 18 in HHS custody if there is a reasonable suspicion that a child is 18 years or older.” ORR
 19 Guide § 1.6.1. ORR considers multiple forms of evidence in making age determinations,
 20 which are made based upon a totality of the evidence. ORR Guide at §1.6.2. ORR may
 21 consider documentation, including official government-issued documents, statements by
 22 individuals determined to have personal knowledge of the UAC’s age and who HHS
 23 concludes can credibly attest to the age of the UAC, and medical age assessments. ORR
 24 Guide at § 1.6.2. The ORR Guide provides that a “dental maturity assessments using
 25 radiographs may be used to determine age, but only in conjunction with other evidence.”
 26 ORR Guide at § 1.6.2.

27 **III. Nature of Relief Sought in this Action.**

28 Petitioner alleges nine causes of action in the Complaint and Petition for Writ of

1 Habeas Corpus. Petitioner alleges that Respondents: (1) violated Section 235 of the
2 TVPRA, 8 U.S.C. § 1232 (Doc. 1 at ¶¶ 81-83); (2) violated the *Flores* Settlement Agreement
3 (Doc. 1 at ¶¶ 84-88); (3) acted arbitrarily and capriciously in violation of the Administrative
4 Procedures Act (“APA”) and the *Accardi* doctrine (Doc. 1 at ¶¶ 89-94); (4) have
5 “unlawfully withheld” a discrete agency action in violation of the APA (Doc. 1 at ¶¶ 95-
6 97); (5) violated the Fifth Amendment’s Substantive Due Process Clause (Doc. 1 at ¶¶ 98-
7 103); (6) violated the Fifth Amendment’s Procedural Due Process Clause (Doc. 1 at ¶¶
8 104-109); (7) lack a factual basis to initiate expedited removal proceedings (Doc. 1 at ¶¶
9 110-114); (8) violated the Fifth Amendment’s Procedural Due Process Clause by issuing
10 an expedited removal order (Doc. 1 at ¶¶ 115-119); (9) violated the Prison Rape
11 Elimination Act, 28 C.F.R. § 115.14(a) (Doc. 1 at ¶¶ 120-122).

12 On the basis of his claims, Petitioner seeks an order declaring that ICE and ORR
13 have acted arbitrarily and capriciously and failed to follow internal policies, declare that
14 ICE and ORR have unlawfully withheld required agency action, declare that ICE’s decision
15 to detain Petitioner is unlawful under the TVPRA and the *Flores* Settlement Agreement,
16 declare that Petitioner’s due process rights have been violated, enjoin Respondents from
17 applying the ORR’s age re-determination as a basis for expedited removal, custody
18 determinations, or other immigration decisions, order ORR to complete a new age
19 determination within 48 hours, order Petitioner to be transferred to ORR custody within 72
20 hours and for release to a sponsor, enjoin Respondents from transferring Petitioner during
21 the pendency of this action or “causing [him] any greater harm,” grant the Petition and
22 order his immediate release from ICE custody to ORR custody for release to a sponsor,
23 and award attorneys’ fees and costs. Doc. 1 at Prayer for Relief.

24 In his Motion for Preliminary Injunction, Petitioner seeks an order (1) declaring ICE
25 and ORR’s age re-determination violated 8 U.S.C. § 1232(b)(4) and order that ICE and
26 ORR rescind the age re-determination, (2) enjoining Respondents from applying the age
27 re-determination as the basis for expedited removal, custody determinations or other
28 immigration relief, (3) enjoining Respondents from “causing Petitioner any greater harm

1 during the pendency of this litigation,” including transferring him, (4) order ORR to
2 complete a new age determination within 48 hours, (5) order Respondents to transfer
3 Petitioner to ORR custody for release to a sponsor within 3 days. Doc. 2 at 32.

4 **IV. Legal Standard for Preliminary Injunction.**

5 “A preliminary injunction is an extraordinary remedy never awarded as of right.”
6 *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 24 (2008). Preliminary injunctions are
7 intended to preserve the relative positions of the parties until a trial on the merits can be
8 held, “preventing the irreparable loss of a right or judgment.” *Sierra On-Line, Inc. v.*
9 *Phoenix Software, Inc.*, 739 F.2d 1415, 1422 (9th Cir. 1984). Preliminary injunctions are
10 “not a preliminary adjudication on the merits.” *Id.* A court should not grant a preliminary
11 injunction unless the applicant shows: (1) a strong likelihood of his success on the merits;
12 (2) that the applicant is likely to suffer an irreparable injury absent preliminary relief; (3)
13 the balance of hardships favors the applicant; and (4) the public interest favors a
14 preliminary injunction. *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 20. To show harm, a movant must allege that
15 concrete, imminent harm is likely with particularized facts. *Id.* at 22. This standard reflects
16 the idea that a preliminary injunction is an “extraordinary remedy that may only be awarded
17 upon a clear showing that the [petitioner] is entitled to such relief.” *Id.* Where the
18 government is a party, courts merge the analysis of the final two *Winter* factors, the balance
19 of equities and the public interest. *Drakes Bay Oyster Co. v. Jewell*, 747 F.3d 1073, 1092
20 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418, 435 (2009)).

21 A preliminary injunction can take two forms. A “prohibitory injunction prohibits a
22 party from taking action and preserves the status quo pending a determination of the action
23 on the merits.” *Marlyn Nutraceuticals, Inc. v. Mucos Pharma GmbH & Co.*, 571 F.3d 873,
24 878-79 (9th Cir. 2009) (cleaned up). A “mandatory injunction orders a responsible party to
25 take action. . . . A mandatory injunction goes well beyond simply maintaining the status
26 quo pendente lite and is particularly disfavored.” *Id.* at 879 (cleaned up). A mandatory
27 injunction is “subject to a higher degree of scrutiny because such relief is particularly
28 disfavored under the law of this circuit.” *Stanley v. Univ. of S. Cal.*, 13 F.3d 1313, 1320

(9th Cir. 1994) (citation omitted). The Ninth Circuit has warned courts to be “extremely cautious” when issuing this type of relief, *Martin v. Int’l Olympic Comm.*, 740 F.2d 670, 675 (9th Cir. 1984), and requests for such relief are generally denied “unless extreme or very serious damage will result,” and even then, not in “doubtful cases.” *Marlyn Nutraceuticals, Inc.*, 571 F.3d at 879; *accord LGS Architects, Inc. v. Concordia Homes of Nev.*, 434 F.3d 1150, 1158 (9th Cir. 2006); *Garcia v. Google, Inc.*, 786 F.3d 733, 740 (9th Cir. 2015). In such cases, district courts should deny preliminary relief unless the facts and law *clearly* favor the moving party. *Garcia*, 786 F.3d at 740.

V. Argument.

A. Petitioner improperly seeks a judgment on the merits.

By his Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction, Petitioner is not seeking to merely preserve the status quo on a temporary basis. Rather, he seeks an injunction that would alter the status quo by providing him the ultimate relief he seeks in this litigation. If Petitioner’s motion for preliminary injunction is granted, then there is no more effective relief for Petitioner to be granted on the habeas petition. By issuing the requested preliminary injunction, this Court would be deciding the central issues to this litigation: that Petitioner is entitled to a new age determination by ORR, that he must be transferred from ICE custody to ORR custody for placement with a sponsor, and that his due process rights have been violated. This is an improper use of a preliminary injunction, which is “not a preliminary adjudication on the merits but rather a device for preserving the status quo and preventing the irreparable loss of rights before judgment.” *Sierra On-Line, Inc.*, 739 F.2d at 1422 (citation omitted); *see Anderson v. Davila*, 125 F.3d 148, 156 (3rd Cir. 1997) (“The purpose of a preliminary injunction is to preserve the status quo, not to decide the issues on their merits.”). As a matter of law, Petitioner is not entitled to what amounts to a judgment on the merits at this preliminary stage. *See Mendez v. U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf’t*, No. 23-cv-00829-TLT, 2023 WL 2604585, at * 3 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 15, 2023) (quoting *Senate of State of Cal. v. Mosbacher*, 968 F.2d 974, 978 (9th Cir. 1992) for the proposition that “judgment on the merits in the guise of preliminary relief is

1 a highly inappropriate relief.”).

2 **B. Petitioner cannot establish the requirements for an injunction.**

3 **1. Petitioner cannot establish a likelihood of success on the merits.**

4 **a. ORR does not have custody of Petitioner.**

5 Petitioner’s central claim is that ORR violated statutory law and its own guidelines
6 when it determined his date of birth was 2003, the date listed on his passport and national
7 identity card, thereby rejecting the declarations of Petitioner and his family and other
8 records he submitted identifying his date of birth as 2009. Petitioner seeks a declaration
9 that ORR violated the law and his constitutional rights, and an injunction requiring ORR
10 to rescind its finding and issue a new finding. As the Court determined in *Imon v. Keeton*,
11 No. CV-20-00037-PHX-DWL (JZB), 2020 WL 4284378, at *6 (D. Ariz. July 27, 2020),
12 these claims are not properly before the Court in this habeas action because ORR does not
13 have custody of Petitioner. *See Imon*, 2020 WL 4284378, at *6 (“Here, ORR (a component
14 of HHS) does not have custody of [p]etitioner. Instead, he has been in the custody of ICE
15 (a component of DHS) since October 2018. . . . Given this backdrop, it is unclear how the
16 Court could, via a writ of habeas corpus, order ORR to provide the relief that Petitioner
17 seeks. 28 U.S.C. § 2243 (when issued, a writ of habeas corpus ‘shall be directed to the
18 person having custody of the person detained’).”

19 **b. Respondents have appropriately determined Petitioner’s**
20 **age.**

21 The TVPRA directed HHS and DHS to develop procedures to make a prompt
22 determination of the age of an alien, which must take into account multiple forms of
23 evidence. 8 U.S.C. § 1232(b)(4). Those procedures were developed and became the ORR
24 Guide, which acknowledges the “challenges in determining the age of individuals in
25 custody.” ORR Guide at § 1.6. As addressed above, the ORR Guide directs that
26 “[p]rocedures for determining the age of an individuals must take into account the totality
27 of the circumstances and evidence, including the non-exclusive use of radiographs, to
28 determine the age of the individual.” ORR Guide at §1.6.2. ORR considers multiple forms

1 of evidence including documentation, statements by individuals, and medical age
2 assessments. ORR Guide at § 1.6.2. In this case, the evidence indicates that Petitioner has
3 a genuine and authentic Afghan passport and national identity card that establish his year
4 of birth as 2003. The contrary evidence are statements by Petitioner and his family
5 members that his year of birth in 2009, a medical record that is handwritten on a
6 prescription pad, and school records that are not authenticated. Ex. D. Because of the
7 inconsistency in the records, a dental maturity assessment was performed that determined
8 with a 77.55% probability that Petitioner was at least 18 years old. The ORR Guide
9 provides that “[i]f an individual’s estimated probability of being 18 or older is 75 percent
10 or greater according to a medical age assessment, and this evidence has been considered in
11 conjunction with the totality of the evidence, ORR must determine that the individual is 18
12 years or older and may refer the individual to [DHS].” ORR Guide at § 1.6.2. DHS has also
13 reviewed Petitioner’s proffered evidence and determined that he is an adult. Doc. 2 at ¶ 52.
14 Petitioner may disagree with the results, but Respondents followed the statutory regulations
15 and their own procedures in determining Petitioner’s age.

16 **c. Petitioner is lawfully and mandatorily detained under 8**
17 **U.S.C. § 1225(b).**

18 Initially, when Petitioner was apprehended by immigration officials and presented
19 himself as an unaccompanied minor, he was issued a notice to appear in general removal
20 proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1229(a) and referred to ORR. Ex. A. On April 15, 2025, prior
21 to being determined to be an adult, Petitioner’s removal proceedings under 8 U.S.C.
22 1229(a) were terminated to allow Petitioner to apply for relief with United States
23 Citizenship and Immigration Services. However, when Petitioner was properly determined
24 to be an adult, he was referred back to DHS and processed under expedited removal
25 procedures for inadmissible aliens encountered at the border without valid entry
26 documents. Ex. A.; *see also* 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1). As an adult detainee determined to be
27 inadmissible for lack of a valid entry document and in expedited removal proceedings
28 under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b), Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C.

1 § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii).

2 Under section 1225(b)(1), aliens are ordered removed “without further hearing or
3 review,” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(i), but an alien indicating either an intention to apply
4 for asylum or a credible fear of persecution, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(ii), “shall be
5 detained” while that alien’s asylum application is pending, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii).
6 Aliens covered by 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) in turn “shall be detained for a [removal]
7 proceeding” if an immigration officer “determines that [they are] not clearly and beyond a
8 doubt entitled” to admission. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A).

9 Petitioner has claimed a fear of return to Afghanistan and is awaiting an asylum
10 interview. He is therefore subject to mandatory detention during his expedited removal
11 proceedings while his credible fear claim is adjudicated. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii).

12 **2. Petitioner will not be irreparably harmed absent an injunction.**

13 To establish the element of irreparable harm, Petitioner relies on the false allegation
14 that he is a minor in adult detention. However, as established above, DHS has followed the
15 applicable statutory regulations and their own procedures, considered the totality of the
16 evidence, and properly determined that Petitioner is an adult. Accordingly, Petitioner’s
17 irreparable harm arguments that he is “actively suffering irreparable harm” because he is
18 unlawfully subject to adult detention fail.

19 Petitioner also claims that he will suffer irreparable harm absent an injunction
20 because he is at imminent risk of removal. Under Supreme Court precedent, “the burden
21 of removal alone cannot constitute the requisite irreparable injury.” *Nken*, 556 U.S. at 438.
22 “Although removal is a serious burden for many aliens, it is not categorically irreparable.”
23 *Id.* at 435. That is particularly true where, as here, the petitioner has been determined to be
24 inadmissible and subject to expedited removal proceedings. Because Petitioner is still
25 considered to be at the border seeking entry, removal alone does not constitute irreparable
26 harm.

27 **3. Relief Is Not In the Public Interest.**

28 The public interest factor does not weigh in Petitioner’s favor. Petitioner’s

arguments in favor of the public interest are all based on the protections afforded UACs. These arguments start with the assumption that Petitioner is a UAC and entitled to those protections, and that relief should be granted to ensure that he receives them. However, the point is not whether UACs should be afforded the protections prescribed by law. The issue is whether Respondents complied with the law and regulations to when they determined Petitioner's age, which they did. The public interest weighs in favor of denying the Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction. Petitioner has been determined to be an adult based on the totality of the evidence presented to ORR and to ICE. Petitioner has received the process to which he is due and is unlikely to succeed on the merits of the petition. The public interest lies in the Executive's ability to enforce U.S. immigration laws. *El Rescate Legal Servs., Inc. v. Exec. Off. of Immigr. Rev.*, 959 F.2d 742, 750 (9th Cir. 1991) ("Control over immigration is a sovereign prerogative."). Indeed, the public interest is evidenced by Congress' intent in giving the Executive the ability to determine who is admissible and who is inadmissible to the United States and to mandatorily detain aliens who have not demonstrated their admissibility to the United States while assessing any claims for relief. *See* 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182(a), 1225(b).

C. Petitioner should be required to post a bond in the event relief is granted.

Finally, if the Court decides to grant relief, it should order a bond pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c), which states "The court may issue a preliminary injunction or a temporary restraining order only if the movant gives security in an amount that the court considers proper to pay the costs and damages sustained by any party found to have been wrongfully enjoined or restrained." Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c) (emphasis added). Here, because Petitioner is an arriving alien subject to mandatory detention, the amount of any bond should be akin to an appearance bond.

D. Response to Petition for Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem.

Defendant objects to the Petition for Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem because Petitioner is not a minor or otherwise incompetent and can prosecute this case without a representative appointed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 17(c). If the Court is inclined to grant

1 the Petition for Appointment, Respondents object to being taxed for the costs and fees of
2 the guardian ad litem.

3 **VI. Conclusion.**

4 Every habeas corpus petition necessarily alleges the same basic ground for relief,
5 *i.e.*, that the petitioner is detained in violation of the Constitution, laws or treaties of the
6 United States. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Only when it is clear on the face of a petition that
7 exceptional circumstances require immediate review of a petitioner's claims will
8 consideration of his petition be advanced at the expense of prior, pending petitions. Upon
9 the current record, it is not plain that the merits of Petitioner's claims are so strong as to
10 warrant expedited adjudication and Petitioner is not likely to succeed on the merits of his
11 claim. *See In re Roe*, 257 F.3d 1077, 1081 (9th Cir. 2001) (declining to resolve issue of
12 whether a district court has the authority to release a prisoner pending resolution of a habeas
13 case, but holding that if such authority does exist, it can only be exercised in an
14 "extraordinary case involving special circumstances"). Accordingly, Petitioner's Motion
15 for Preliminary Injunction should be denied.

16 Respectfully submitted this 7th day of July, 2025.

17 TIMOTHY COURCHINE
18 United States Attorney
19 District of Arizona

20 *s/Katherine R. Branch*
21 KATHERINE R. BRANCH
22 Assistant United States Attorney
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