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8 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

10 Edy Noe Baten Perez,

11 Petitioner,

12 v.

13 John Cantu, Immigration and Customs
14 Enforcement Phoenix Field Office Director
15 *et al.*,

16 Respondents.

Case No. 2:25-cv-03854-SMB (MTM)

**RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2241**

17 Respondents, John Cantu, Arizona Field Office Director, U.S. Immigration and
18 Customs Enforcement (ICE), Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS),
19 Pamela Bondi, Attorney General of the United States, Fred Figueroa, Warden of Eloy
20 Detention Center and Todd Lyons, Acting Director of ICE, by and through counsel, hereby
21 respond to the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, as directed under this Court's Order
22 dated October 17, 2025. Doc. 5.

23 Petitioner Edy Noe Baten Perez (Petitioner), detained after his second entry into the
24 United States, is an "applicant for admission" who must therefore be detained pending
25 removal proceedings. The plain language of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)
26 establishes that any alien present in the United States without being admitted is indeed an
27 "applicant for admission" and therefore subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C.
28

1 § 1225(b)(2). *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 297 (2018) (“Read most naturally,
2 §§ 1225(b)(1) and (b)(2) thus mandate detention of applicants of admission until certain
3 proceedings have concluded.”). Accordingly, pursuant to the INA, Petitioner is properly
4 subject to mandatory detention during the pendency of his removal proceedings. For these
5 reasons, Petitioner’s request for habeas relief should be denied.

6 **I. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND.**

7 Petitioner Edy Noe Baten Perez is a native and citizen of Guatemala. *See*
8 Declaration of Jonathan Montelongo-Zubiate, Deportation Officer, attached as Exhibit A,
9 at ¶ 3. On April 11, 2006, Petitioner was encountered by U.S Border Patrol (USBP) and
10 was granted a Voluntary Return to Mexico, which USBP Agents witnessed. *Id.* at ¶ 4. He
11 reentered the United States on an unknown date, at an unknown location, without being
12 admitted or paroled by an Immigration Officer. *Id.* at 5.

13 On February 8, 2017, ICE ERO Washington Field Office Fugitive Operations Team,
14 arrested Petitioner. He was questioned by Field Office Fugitive Team officers who
15 established alienage and removability through field interview. Petitioner was taken into
16 custody without incident. *Id.* at ¶ 6. On the same date, ICE served Petitioner with a Notice
17 to Appear (NTA) charging him with violating Section 212(a)(6)(A)(i) of the INA, as an
18 alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled or who arrived in the
19 United States at any time or place other than as designated by the Attorney General. *Id.* at
20 ¶ 7. On February 8, 2017, the Washington Field Office released Petitioner on bond. *Id.* at
21 ¶ 8.

22 On July 27, 2017, Petitioner was ordered removed from the United States by an
23 Immigration Judge. *Id.* at ¶ 9. On January 21, 2021, Petitioner filed a motion to reopen his
24 immigration case, which the immigration court in Arlington, Virginia granted. *Id.* at ¶ 10.
25 On February 13, 2024, Petitioner’s immigration case was administratively closed by the
26 Annandale Immigration Court. *Id.* at ¶ 11.

27 On July 16, 2025, ICE’s Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) filed a
28 motion to re-calendar Petitioner’s immigration case. *Id.* at ¶ 12. On July 28, 2025, Special

1 Agents with DHS's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) encountered Petitioner at the
2 Alleghany County Jail. He was arrested by police in Cumberland, Maryland during a traffic
3 stop. HSI Special Agents contacted a Deportation Officer and conducted immigration
4 related record checks. Petitioner was subsequently taken into custody to await his
5 appearance before an Immigration Judge. *Id.* at ¶ 13. After several transfers, Petitioner
6 arrived at the Florence Staging Facility, in Florence, Arizona on July 30, 2025. *Id.* at ¶ 16.
7 On July 30, 2025, an attorney submitted a bond request to the Executive Office for
8 Immigration Review in Florence, Arizona, but it was rejected. *Id.* at ¶ 17. On July 31, 2025,
9 ICE transferred Petitioner to the Eloy Detention Center, in Eloy, Arizona. *Id.* at ¶ 18. On
10 July 31, 2025, the Immigration Court scheduled a custody redetermination hearing for
11 Petitioner for August 6, 2025. *Id.* at ¶ 19.

12 On August 3, 2025, a change of venue form (Form I-830) was completed by an
13 officer at the Eloy Detention Center. *Id.* at ¶ 20. On August 6, 2025, the Immigration Judge
14 in Florence, Arizona denied Petitioner's motion for custody redetermination, finding that
15 the Immigration Court did not have jurisdiction, as Petitioner was an applicant for
16 admission. *Id.* at ¶ 21. On August 7, 2025, OPLA advised a Deportation Officer at the Eloy
17 Detention Center to file the change of venue form (Form-I-830) with the Washington EOIR
18 to complete the transfer of the case to Eloy. That request is currently pending. *Id.* at ¶ 22.

19 Petitioner filed this Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus on October 16, 2025, Doc.
20 1, along with an Emergency Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order. Doc. 2. On
21 October 17, 2025, the Court directed the Respondents to respond to Petitioner's Emergency
22 Motion for Temporary Restraining Order by October 31, 2025, and Petition for Writ of
23 Habeas Corpus by November 6, 2025. Doc. 5. Petitioner claims that his detention under 8
24 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) violates the INA, federal regulations and his substantive and
25 procedural due process rights. Doc. 1. Respondents deny all claims, including his request
26 for a bond hearing or release.

1 **II. STANDARD OF REVIEW.**

2 The burden is on the petitioner to show that his confinement is unlawful. *See Walker*
3 *v. Johnston*, 312 U.S. 275, 286 (1941). Specifically, here, Petitioner challenges his
4 temporary civil immigration detention pending completion of his removal proceedings.
5 Judicial review of immigration matters, including of detention issues, is limited. *I.N.S. v.*
6 *Aguirre-Aguirre*, 526 U.S. 415, 425 (1999); *Hampton v. Mow Sun Wong*, 426 U.S. 88, 101
7 n.21 (1976) (“the power over aliens is of a political character and therefore subject only to
8 narrow judicial review”). The Supreme Court has thus “underscore[d] the limited scope of
9 inquiry into immigration legislation,” and “has repeatedly emphasized that over no
10 conceivable subject is the legislative power of Congress more complete than it is over the
11 admission of aliens.” *Fiallo*, 430 U.S. at 792 (internal quotation omitted).

12 The plenary power of Congress and the Executive Branch over immigration
13 necessarily encompasses immigration detention, because the authority to detain is
14 elemental to the authority to deport, and because public safety is at stake. *See Shaughnessy*
15 *v. United States*, 345 U.S. 206, 210 (1953) (“Courts have long recognized the power to
16 expel or exclude aliens as a fundamental sovereign attribute exercised by the Government's
17 political departments largely immune from judicial control.”); *Carlson v. Landon*, 342 U.S.
18 524, 538 (1952) (“Detention is necessarily a part of this deportation procedure.”).

19 **III. THE HABEAS PETITION SHOULD BE DENIED.**

20 **A. Applicants for Admission.**

21 “The phrase ‘applicant for admission’ is a term of art denoting a particular legal
22 status.” *Torres v. Barr*, 976 F.3d 918, 927 (9th Cir. 2020) (en banc). Section 1225(a)(1)
23 states:

24 (1) Aliens treated as applicants for admission.— An alien present in the United
25 States who has not been admitted or who arrives in the United States (whether or
26 not at a designated port of arrival ...) shall be deemed for the purposes of this Act
27 an applicant for admission.
28

1 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1).¹ Section 1225(a)(1) was added to the INA as part of the Illegal
2 Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA). Pub. L. No. 104-
3 208, § 302, 110 Stat. 3009-546. “The distinction between an alien who has effected an
4 entry into the United States and one who has never entered runs throughout immigration
5 law.” *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001).

6 Before IIRIRA, “immigration law provided for two types of removal proceedings:
7 deportation hearings and exclusion hearings.” *Hose v. I.N.S.*, 180 F.3d 992, 994 (9th Cir.
8 1999) (en banc). A deportation hearing was a proceeding against an alien already
9 physically present in the United States, whereas an exclusion hearing was against an alien
10 outside of the United States seeking admission. *Id.* Whether an applicant was eligible for
11 “admission” was determined only in exclusion proceedings, and exclusion proceedings
12 were limited to “entering” aliens — those aliens “coming . . . into the United States, from
13 a foreign port or place or from an outlying possession.” *Landon v. Plasencia*, 459 U.S. 21,
14 24 n.3 (1982) (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(13) (1982)). “[N]on-citizens who had entered
15 without inspection could take advantage of greater procedural and substantive rights
16 afforded in deportation proceedings, while non-citizens who presented themselves at a port
17 of entry for inspection were subjected to more summary exclusion proceedings.” *Hing Sum*
18 *v. Holder*, 602 F.3d 1092, 1100 (9th Cir. 2010); *see also Plasencia*, 459 U.S. at 25-26.

19 Prior to IIRIRA, aliens who attempted to lawfully enter the United States were in a
20 worse position than aliens who crossed the border unlawfully. *See Hing Sum*, 602 F.3d at
21 1100; *see also* H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, pt. 1, at 225-229 (1996). IIRIRA “replaced
22 deportation and exclusion proceedings with a general removal proceeding.” *Hing Sum*, 602
23 F.3d at 1100. IIRIRA added Section 1225(a)(1) to “ensure[] that all immigrants who have
24 not been lawfully admitted, regardless of their physical presence in the country, are placed
25 on equal footing in removal proceedings under the INA.” *Torres*, 976 F.3d at 928; *see also*
26 H.R. Rep. 104-469, pt. 1, at 225 (explaining that § 1225(a)(1) replaced “certain aspects of
27

28 ¹ Admission is the “lawful entry of an alien into the United States after inspection and
authorization by an immigration officer.” 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(13).

1 the current ‘entry doctrine,’” under which illegal aliens who entered the United States
2 without inspection gained equities and privileges in immigration proceedings unavailable
3 to aliens who presented themselves for inspection at a port of entry). The provision “places
4 some physically-but-not-lawfully present aliens into a fictive legal status for purposes of
5 removal proceedings.” *Torres*, 976 F.3d at 928.

6 **B. Removal Proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1229(a).**

7 Removal proceedings under § 1229a are commonly referred to as “full removal
8 proceedings” or “240 removal proceedings” due to the statutory section of the INA in
9 which they appear. 8 U.S.C. § 1229a; INA § 240. The proceedings take place before an IJ,
10 an employee of the Department of Justice. 8 U.S.C. § 1229a(a)(1), (b)(1). Aliens in § 1229a
11 proceedings have an opportunity to apply for relief from removal. *See, e.g.*, 8 U.S.C. §
12 1158 (asylum); 8 U.S.C. § 1229b(b) (cancellation of removal for nonpermanent residents);
13 8 U.S.C. § 1255 (adjustment of status). These are adversarial proceedings in which the
14 alien has the right to hire counsel, examine and present evidence, and cross-examine
15 witnesses. 8 U.S.C. § 1229a(b)(4). Either party may appeal the IJ decision to the BIA. 8
16 U.S.C. § 1229a(b)(4)(C); *see also* 8 C.F.R. § 1240.15. If the BIA issues a final order of
17 removal, the alien may also seek judicial review at a U.S. Court of Appeals through a
18 petition for review. 8 U.S.C. § 1252.

19 **C. Detention under the INA.**

20 The INA authorizes civil detention of aliens during removal proceedings and
21 “[d]etention is necessarily part of this deportation procedure.” *Carlson v. Landon*, 342 U.S.
22 524, 538 (1952); *see also* 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225(b), 1226(a), and 1231(a). “Where an alien falls
23 within this statutory scheme can affect whether his detention is mandatory or discretionary,
24 as well as the kind of review process available to him if he wishes to contest the necessity
25 of his detention.” *Prieto-Romero v. Clark*, 534 F.3d 1053, 1057 (9th Cir. 2008).

26 **1. Detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225.**

27 The INA mandates the detention of applicants for admission. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)
28 and (b)(2); *see also Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 287 (Applicants for admission “fall into one of

1 two categories, those covered by § 1225(b)(1) and those covered by § 1225(b)(2).” As
2 explained above, arriving aliens and aliens present less than two years are subject to
3 expedited removal. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1). If an alien “indicates an intention to apply for
4 asylum,” the alien proceeds through the credible fear process and is subject to mandatory
5 detention. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii); *see also* 8 U.S.C. § 1225(B)(1)(B)(iii)(IV).

6 Section 1225(b)(2) is “broader” and “serves as a catchall provision.” *Jennings*, 583
7 U.S. at 287. The Supreme Court recognized that 1225(b)(2) “applies to all applicants for
8 admission not covered by § 1225(b)(1).” *Id.* Under § 1225(b)(2), an alien “who is an
9 applicant for admission” shall be detained for a removal proceeding “if the examining
10 immigration officer determines that [the] alien seeking admission is not clearly and beyond
11 a doubt entitled to be admitted.” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). Section 1225 does not provide
12 for aliens to be released on bond, but DHS has discretion to release any applicant for
13 admission on a “case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public
14 benefit.” 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A); *see Biden v. Texas*, 597 U.S. 785, 806 (2022).

15 **2. Detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226.**

16 Section 1226 provides that “an alien may be arrested and detained pending a
17 decision on whether the alien is to be removed from the United States.” 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).
18 Under § 1226(a), the government may detain an alien during his removal proceedings,
19 release him on bond, or release him on conditional parole. By regulation, immigration
20 officers can release an alien if the alien demonstrates that he “would not pose a danger to
21 property or persons” and “is likely to appear for any future proceeding.” 8 C.F.R.
22 § 236.1(c)(8).

23 **D. Petitioner Is Subject to Mandatory Detention Under 8 U.S.C.** 24 **§ 1225(B)(2).**

25 Section 1225 applies to “applicants for admission,” such as Petitioner, who are
26 defined as “alien[s] present in the United States who [have] not been admitted” or “who
27 arrive[] in the United States.” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1). Applicants for admission “fall into
28 one of two categories, those covered by § 1225(b)(1) and those covered by § 1225(b)(2).”

1 *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 287.

2 Section 1225(b)(1) applies to arriving aliens and “certain other” aliens “initially
3 determined to be inadmissible due to fraud, misrepresentation, or lack of valid document.”
4 *Id.*; 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(i), (iii). These aliens are generally subject to expedited
5 removal proceedings. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(i). But if the alien “indicates an
6 intention to apply for asylum . . . or a fear of persecution,” immigration officers will refer
7 the alien for a credible fear interview. *Id.* § 1225(b)(1)(A)(ii). An alien “with a credible
8 fear of persecution” is “detained for further consideration of the application for asylum.”
9 *Id.* § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii). If the alien does not indicate an intent to apply for asylum, express
10 a fear of persecution, or is “found not to have such a fear,” they are detained until removed
11 from the United States. *Id.* §§ 1225(b)(1)(A)(i), (B)(iii)(IV).

12 Section 1225(b)(2) is “broader” and “serves as a catchall provision.” *Jennings*, 583
13 U.S. at 287. It “applies to all applicants for admission not covered by § 1225(b)(1).” *Id.*
14 Under § 1225(b)(2), an alien “who is an applicant for admission” shall be detained for a
15 removal proceeding “if the examining immigration officer determines that [the] alien
16 seeking admission is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted.” 8 U.S.C.
17 § 1225(b)(2)(A); *see Matter of Q. Li*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 66, 68 (BIA 2025) (“for aliens
18 arriving in and seeking admission into the United States who are placed directly in full
19 removal proceedings, section 235(b)(2)(A) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), mandates
20 detention ‘until removal proceedings have concluded.’”) (quoting *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at
21 299).

22 In *Jennings*, the Supreme Court evaluated the proper interpretation of 8 U.S.C.
23 § 1225(b) and stated that “[r]ead most naturally, §§ 1225(b)(1) and (b)(2) [] mandate
24 detention of applicants for admission until certain proceedings have concluded.” 583 U.S.
25 at 297. The Court noted that neither § 1225(b)(1) nor § 1225(b)(2) “impose[] any limit on
26 the length of detention” and “neither § 1225(b)(1) nor § 1225(b)(2) say[] anything
27 whatsoever about bond hearings.” *Id.* The Court added that the sole means of release for
28 aliens detained pursuant to §§ 1225(b)(1) or (b)(2) prior to removal from the United States

1 is temporary parole at the discretion of the Attorney General under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5).
2 *Id.* at 300. The Court observed that because aliens held under § 1225(b) may be paroled for
3 “urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit,” “[t]hat express exception to
4 detention implies that there are no *other* circumstances under which aliens detained under
5 § 1225(b) may be released.” *Id.* (citations and internal quotation omitted) (emphasis in the
6 original). Courts thus may not validly draw additional procedural limitations “out of thin
7 air.” *Id.* at 312. The Supreme Court concluded: “In sum, §§ 1225(b)(1) and (b)(2) mandate
8 detention of aliens throughout the completion of applicable proceedings.” *Id.* at 302. As
9 such, Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2).

10 **IV. PETITIONER’S DETENTION PURSUANT TO 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A)**
11 **COMPORTS WITH THE *MATTER OF YAJURE HURTADO*.**

12 The BIA issued a precedential decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* on September
13 5, 2025, in which it determined that aliens who are present in the United States without
14 admission are applicants for admission as defined under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and must
15 be detained for the duration of their removal proceedings no matter how long they have
16 resided in the United States. *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216, 228 (B.I.A.
17 2025). The BIA’s precedential decisions “serve as precedents in all proceedings involving
18 the same issue or issues” within the immigration courts. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(g)(1) (BIA
19 decisions are “binding on all officers and employees of the Department of Homeland
20 Security or immigration judges in the administration of the immigration laws of the United
21 States.”); *see also id.* § 1003.1(d)(1) (“In addition, the Board, through precedent decisions,
22 shall provide clear and uniform guidance to DHS, the immigration judges, and the general
23 public on the proper interpretation and administration of the [INA] and its implementing
24 regulations.”).

25 Although Respondents are aware of a prior ruling in this District rejecting their
26 arguments, *see Echevarria v. Bondi, et al.*, No. 2:25-cv-03252-PHX-DWL, 2025 WL
27 2821282 (D. Ariz. Oct. 3, 2025), Respondents respectfully maintain that Petitioner has not
28 been deprived of due process, and falls within the definition of an “arriving alien”
warranting mandatory detention as the removal process unfolds. Respondents also

1 respectfully maintain that an alien is an “applicant for admission” until an immigration
2 official has inspected that person and determined that he or she is admissible into the United
3 States.

4 In *Echevarria*, District Judge Dominic Lanza determined that the phrase “alien
5 seeking admission” in 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) implies a present-tense nature to the desire
6 for admission, such that an alien who is already present in the United States cannot be
7 “seeking admission”:

8 The word “seeking” is the present participle of the verb “seek.” It thus has a
9 temporal element—Petitioner must have been in the process of seeking
10 admission at the time of the inspection.

11 It is hard to see how Petitioner could be deemed to have been “seeking”
12 admission at the time of the encounter on July 2, 2025. By that point,
13 Petitioner had already been present in the United States for 24 years, having
14 arrived and entered in 2001. Moreover, under Respondents’ interpretation of
15 § 1225(a)(1), Petitioner became an “applicant for admission” in 2001, upon
16 his arrival and entry. Implicit in Respondents’ position, then, is that
17 Petitioner somehow existed in a perpetual state of “seeking” admission
18 during the 24-year period between when he first became an “applicant for
19 admission” in 2001, by virtue of his entry into the country, and when he was
20 encountered and inspected by an immigration officer in 2025.

21 *Echevarria*, 2025 WL 2821282, at *6 (internal citations omitted).

22 However, this analysis fails to consider other pieces of statutory context.
23 Respondents respectfully argue that the phrase “applicants for admission” carves out a
24 subset of those who are “seeking admission.” For example, elsewhere in section 1225, the
25 statute says that “[a]ll aliens who are applicants for admission *or otherwise seeking*
26 *admission* or readmission to or transit through the United States shall be inspected by
27 immigration officers.” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(3) (emphasis added). In other words, 8 U.S.C.
28 § 1225(a)(3) shows that an alien may be “seeking admission” either by being an “applicant
for admission,” or in some different way. As discussed earlier, the phrase “applicant for
admission” unambiguously includes aliens who have already entered the United States. “In
all but the most unusual situations, a single use of a statutory phrase must have a fixed
meaning.” *See Cochise Consultancy, Inc. v. United States ex rel. Hunt*, 587 U.S. 262, 268

1 (2019) (referring to *Ratzlaf v. United States*, 510 U.S. 135, 143 (1994)). “We therefore
2 avoid interpretations that would ‘attribute different meanings to the same phrase.’” *Id.*
3 (quoting *Reno v. Bossier Parish School Bd.*, 528 U. S. 320, 329 (2000)). Thus, the
4 *Echevarria* court’s holding is not supported by the text of the statute, and Respondents
5 respectfully request this Court reach a different result.

6 Furthermore, Respondents direct the Court’s attention to a decision issued on
7 September 30, 2025, in the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska: *Vargas*
8 *Lopez v. Trump, et al.*, No. 8:25CV526, 2025 WL 2780351 (D. Neb. Sept. 30, 2025). In
9 that case, the court denied a similar habeas petition brought by an alien who entered the
10 United States in 2013 and was detained without bond and held that the petitioner was
11 properly detained under § 1225(b)(2) as an alien within the “catchall” scope of
12 § 1225(b)(2) subject to detention without possibility of release on bond through § 1229a
13 removal proceedings. 2025 WL 2780351, at *6-9. The court noted that illegally remaining
14 in the country for years did not mean the petitioner, who “wish[ed] to stay in this country,”
15 was suddenly not an “applicant for admission.” *Id.* at *9. Additionally, “even if Vargas
16 Lopez might fall within the scope of § 1226(a), he certainly fits within the language of
17 § 1225(b)(2) as well.” *Id.*

18 The *Vargas Lopez* decision also noted the “overlapping relationship between
19 § 1225(b) and § 1226(a) is not only consistent with the plain language of the two provisions
20 but consistent with the interpretation of the two provisions under *Jennings*.” *Id.* The court
21 determined that § 1226 does not contain language limiting its application “to aliens already
22 present in the United States.” *Id.* (comparing *Jennings*’ statements that United States
23 immigration law “authorizes the Government to detain certain aliens already in the country
24 pending the outcome of removal proceedings under §§ 1226(a) and (c)[,]” and that “§ 1226
25 applies to aliens already present in the United States[,]” 583 U.S. at 289 (first quote) and
26 303 (second quote), *with* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) (containing no reference to aliens “present”
27 or “already present” in the United States) and 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c) (containing no reference
28 to “criminal aliens” “present” or “already present” in the United States). The court

1 determined that “references to ‘aliens’ in § 1226 must be read to mean ‘alien[s] present in
2 the United States who ha[ve] not been admitted’ within the meaning of § 1225(a)(1) and
3 within at least the ‘catchall provision that applies to all applicants for admission not
4 covered by § 1225(b)(1) in § 1225(b)(2).” 2025 WL2780351, at * 9 (citing *Jennings*, 583
5 U.S. at 287).

6 The Southern District of California also denied a temporary restraining order sought
7 by an alien who was detained under § 1225(b)(2) despite having been surreptitiously
8 present in the United States for years. *See Chavez v. Noem*, --F. Supp. 3d --, No. 3:25-cv-
9 02325-CAB, 2025 WL 2730228 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 24, 2025). The court noted, among other
10 arguments, that “Section 1225(a)(1) expressly defines that ‘[a]n alien present in the United
11 States who has not been admitted . . . shall be deemed for purposes of this Act *an applicant*
12 *for admission.*’ *Id.* § 1225(a)(1).” *Id.* at *4 (emphasis in original). The court reasoned that,
13 “Petitioners do not contest that they are ‘alien[s] present in the United States who ha[ve]
14 not been admitted.’ By the plain language of § 1225(a)(1), then, Petitioners are ‘applicants
15 for admission’ and thus subject to the mandatory detention provisions of ‘applicants for
16 admission’ under § 1225(b)(2).” *Id.* Respondents respectfully request this Court find *Lopez*
17 *v. Trump* and *Chavez v. Noem* persuasive as they are consistent with the plain language of
18 the INA. *See also Pipa-Aquise v. Bondi*, No. 25-1094, 2025 WL 2490657, at *1 (E.D. Va.
19 Aug. 5, 2025) (finding that, because petitioner, an asylum applicant, was paroled and later
20 re-detained, that does not change his status as an “applicant for admission” under Section
21 1225); *Pena v. Hyde*, No. 25-11983, 2025 WL 2108913, at *2 (D. Mass. July 28, 2025)
22 (upholding detention under § 1225(b)(2) of alien “present in the country but [who] has not
23 yet been lawfully granted admission”).

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VI. CONCLUSION.

In light of the above, Respondents respectfully request the Court deny Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED October 31, 2025.

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