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13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
14 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

15 ARACELI PELICO CALEL,

16 Petitioner,

17 v.

18 CHRISTOPHER J. LAROSE, et al.,

19 Respondents.

20 Case No.: 3:25-cv-02883-GPC-JLB

21 **RESPONDENTS' RESPONSE IN**
22 **OPPOSITION TO PETITIONER'S**
23 **HABEAS PETITION**

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I. INTRODUCTION

2 Petitioner Araceli Pelico Calel is detained in Immigration and Customs
3 Enforcement (“ICE”) custody and is subject to mandatory detention pursuant to 8
4 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). Petitioner’s habeas petition requests that this Court order her
5 immediate release. Through multiple provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1252, Congress has
6 unambiguously stripped federal courts of jurisdiction over challenges to the
7 commencement of removal proceedings, including detention pending removal
8 proceedings. Even apart from this preliminary issue, Petitioner cannot circumvent the
9 detention statute under which she is rightfully detained. The Court should deny
10 Petitioner’s request for relief and dismiss the petition.

II. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

12 Petitioner is a citizen and national of Guatemala. ECF No. 1 ¶ 45. In 2007, she
13 unlawfully entered the United States without being admitted, paroled, or inspected. *Id.*
14 On July 21, 2025, Petitioner was apprehended by ICE and charged with inadmissibility
15 under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i), as an alien present in the United States who has not
16 been admitted or paroled. *Id.* ¶ 46. She was then placed in removal proceedings under
17 8 U.S.C. § 1229a and issued a Notice to Appear (“NTA”). Petitioner remains detained
18 at the Otay Mesa Detention Facility pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). *Id.* ¶ 1. Petitioner
19 requested and was initially granted bond by an immigration judge (“IJ”). *Id.* ¶ 50. DHS
20 appealed that decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals (“BIA”).¹ *Id.* ¶ 51. On
21 October 20, 2025, the BIA issued a decision affirming DHS’s appeal and vacating the
22 bond order by the IJ. *Id.* ¶ 52.

III. STATUTORY BACKGROUND

24 | A. Individuals Seeking Admission to the United States

For more than a century, this country's immigration laws have authorized immigration officials to charge noncitizens as removable from the country, arrest those

28 ¹ In appealing the bond order, DHS invoked the automatic stay provision of 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(i)(2).

1 subject to removal, and detain them during removal proceedings. *See Abel v. United*
2 *States*, 362 U.S. 217, 232-37 (1960). “The rule has been clear for decades: ‘[d]etention

3 during deportation proceedings [i]s ... constitutionally valid.’” *Banyee v. Garland*, 115
4 F.4th 928 (8th Cir. 2024) (quoting *Demore v. Kim*, 538 U.S. 510, 523 (2003)),
5 *rehearing by panel and en banc denied, Banyee v. Bondi*, No. 22-2252, 2025 WL
6 837914 (8th Cir. Mar. 18, 2025); *see Carlson v. Landon*, 342 U.S. 524, 538 (1952)
7 (“Detention is necessarily a part of this deportation procedure.”); *Demore*, 538 U.S. at
8 523 n.7 (“In fact, prior to 1907 there was no provision permitting bail for *any* aliens
9 during the pendency of their deportation proceedings.”) (emphasis in original). The
10 Supreme Court even recognized that removal proceedings “would be [in] vain if those
11 accused could not be held in custody pending the inquiry into their true character.”
12 *Demore*, 538 U.S. at 523 (quoting *Wong Wing v. United States*, 163 U.S. 228, 235
13 (1896)). Over the century, Congress has enacted a multi-layered statutory scheme for
14 the civil detention of aliens pending a decision on removal, during the administrative
15 and judicial review of removal orders, and in preparation for removal. *See generally* 8
16 U.S.C. §§ 1225, 1226, 1231. It is the interplay between these statutes that is at issue
17 here.

18 **B. Detention Under 8 U.S.C. § 1225**

19 “To implement its immigration policy, the Government must be able to decide
20 (1) who may enter the country and (2) who may stay here after entering.” *Jennings v.*
21 *Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 286 (2018). Section 1225 governs inspection, the initial step
22 in this process, *id.*, stating that all “applicants for admission . . . shall be inspected by
23 immigration officers.” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(3). The statute—in a provision entitled
24 “ALIENS TREATED AS APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION”—dictates who “shall be
25 deemed for purposes of this chapter an applicant for admission,” defining that term to
26 encompass *both* an alien “present in the United States who has not been admitted *or*
27 [one] who arrives in the United States” *Id.* § 1225(a)(1) (emphasis added). Section
28 1225(b) governs the inspection procedures applicable to all applicants for admission.

1 They “fall into one of two categories, those covered by § 1225(b)(1) and those covered
2 by § 1225(b)(2).” *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 287.

3 Section 1225(b)(1) applies to arriving aliens and “certain other” aliens “initially
4 determined to be inadmissible due to fraud, misrepresentation, or lack of valid
5 documentation.” *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 287; 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(i), (iii). These
6 aliens are generally subject to expedited removal proceedings. *See* 8 U.S.C. §
7 1225(b)(1)(A)(i). But if the alien “indicates an intention to apply for asylum . . . or a
8 fear of persecution,” immigration officers will refer the alien for a credible fear
9 interview. *Id.* § 1225(b)(1)(A)(ii). An alien “with a credible fear of persecution” is
10 “detained for further consideration of the application for asylum.” *Id.* §
11 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii). If the alien does not indicate an intent to apply for asylum, express a
12 fear of persecution, or is “found not to have such a fear,” they are detained until removed
13 from the United States. *Id.* §§ 1225(b)(1)(A)(i), (B)(iii)(IV).

14 Section 1225(b)(2) is “broader” and “serves as a catchall provision.” *Jennings*,
15 583 U.S. at 287. It “applies to all applicants for admission not covered by § 1225(b)(1).”
16 *Id.* Under § 1225(b)(2), an alien “who is an applicant for admission” shall be detained
17 for a removal proceeding “if the examining immigration officer determines that [the]
18 alien seeking admission is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted.” 8
19 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A); *see Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216, 220 (BIA
20 2025) (“[A]liens who are present in the United States without admission are applicants
21 for admission as defined under section 235(b)(2)(A) of the INA, 8 U.S.C.
22 § 1225(b)(2)(A), and must be detained for the duration of their removal proceedings.”);
23 *Matter of Q. Li*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 66, 68 (BIA 2025) (“for aliens arriving in and seeking
24 admission into the United States who are placed directly in full removal proceedings,
25 section 235(b)(2)(A) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), mandates detention ‘until
26 removal proceedings have concluded.’”) (citing *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 299). However,
27 DHS has the sole discretionary authority to temporarily release on parole “any alien
28 applying for admission to the United States” on a “case-by-case basis for urgent

1 humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.” 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A); *see Biden*
2 *v. Texas*, 597 U.S. 785, 806 (2022).

3 **C. Detention Under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)**

4 Section 1226 provides for arrest and detention “pending a decision on whether
5 the alien is to be removed from the United States.” 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). Under § 1226(a),
6 the government may detain an alien during his removal proceedings, release him on
7 bond, or release him on conditional parole. By regulation, immigration officers can
8 release an alien who demonstrates that he “would not pose a danger to property or
9 persons” and “is likely to appear for any future proceeding.” 8 C.F.R. § 236.1(c)(8). An
10 alien can also request a custody redetermination (i.e., a bond hearing) by an IJ at any
11 time before a final order of removal is issued. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a); 8 C.F.R. §§
12 236.1(d)(1), 1236.1(d)(1), 1003.19.

13 At a custody redetermination, the IJ may continue detention or release the alien
14 on bond or conditional parole. 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a); 8 C.F.R. § 1236.1(d)(1). IJs have
15 broad discretion in deciding whether to release an alien on bond. *In re Guerra*, 24 I. &
16 N. Dec. 37, 39-40 (BIA 2006) (listing nine factors for IJs to consider). But regardless
17 of the factors IJs consider, an alien “who presents a danger to persons or property should
18 not be released during the pendency of removal proceedings.” *Id.* at 38.

19 Section 1226(a) does not grant “any *right* to release on bond.” *Matter of D-J-*, 23
20 I. & N. Dec. at 575 (citing *Carlson v. Landon*, 342 U.S. 524, 534 (1952)) (emphasis in
21 original). Nor does it address the applicable burden of proof or particular factors that
22 must be considered. *See generally* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). Rather, it grants DHS and the
23 Attorney General broad discretionary authority to determine, after arrest, whether to
24 detain or release an alien during her removal proceedings. *See id.* If, after the bond
25 hearing, either party disagrees with the decision of the IJ, that party may appeal the
26 decision to the BIA. *See* 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1(d)(3), 1003.19(f), 1003.38, 1236.1(d)(3).

27 Included within the Attorney General and DHS’s discretionary authority are
28 limits on the delegation to the immigration court. Under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(h)(2)(i)(B),

1 the IJ does not have authority to redetermine the conditions of custody imposed by DHS
2 for any arriving alien. The regulations also include a provision that allows DHS to
3 invoke an automatic stay of any decision by an IJ to release an individual on bond when
4 DHS files an appeal of the custody redetermination. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(i)(2) (“The
5 decision whether or not to file [an automatic stay] is subject to the discretion of the
6 Secretary.”).

7 **D. Review Before the Board of Immigration Appeals**

8 The BIA is an appellate body within the Executive Office for Immigration
9 Review (“EOIR”) and possesses delegated authority from the Attorney General. 8
10 C.F.R. §§ 1003.1(a)(1), (d)(1). The BIA is “charged with the review of those
11 administrative adjudications under the [INA] that the Attorney General may by
12 regulation assign to it,” including IJ custody determinations. 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.1(d)(1),
13 236.1, 1236.1. The BIA not only resolves particular disputes before it, but is also
14 directed to, “through precedent decisions, [] provide clear and uniform guidance to
15 DHS, the immigration judges, and the general public on the proper interpretation and
16 administration of the [INA] and its implementing regulations.” *Id.* § 1003.1(d)(1).
17 Decisions rendered by the BIA are final, except for those reviewed by the Attorney
18 General. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(d)(7).

19 If an automatic stay of a custody decision is invoked by DHS, regulations require
20 the BIA to track the progress of the custody appeal “to avoid unnecessary delays in
21 completing the record for decision.” 8 C.F.R. § 1003.6(c)(3). The stay lapses in 90 days,
22 unless the detainee seeks an extension of time to brief the custody appeal, 8 C.F.R.
23 § 1003.6(c)(4), or unless DHS seeks, and the BIA grants, a discretionary stay. 8 C.F.R.
24 § 1003.6(c)(5).

25 If the BIA denies DHS’s custody appeal, the automatic stay remains in effect for
26 five business days. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.6(d). DHS may, during that five-day period, refer
27 the case to the Attorney General under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(h)(1) for consideration. *Id.*
28 Upon referral to the Attorney General, the release is stayed for 15 business days while

1 the case is considered. The Attorney General may extend the stay of release upon
2 motion by DHS. *Id.*

3 IV. ARGUMENT

4 A. Petitioner's Claims and Requests are Barred by 8 U.S.C. § 1252

5 Petitioner bears the burden of establishing that this Court has subject matter
6 jurisdiction over her claims. *See Ass'n of Am. Med. Coll. v. United States*, 217 F.3d 770,
7 778-79 (9th Cir. 2000); *Finley v. United States*, 490 U.S. 545, 547-48 (1989). As a
8 threshold matter, Petitioner's claims are jurisdictionally barred under 8 U.S.C.
9 § 1252(g) and 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)(9).

10 Courts lack jurisdiction over any claim or cause of action arising from any
11 decision to commence or adjudicate removal proceedings or execute removal orders.
12 *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g) ("[N]o court shall have jurisdiction to hear any cause or claim
13 by or on behalf of any alien arising from the decision or action by the Attorney General
14 to *commence proceedings, adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders.*"") (emphasis
15 added). Section 1252(g) also bars district courts from hearing challenges to the method
16 by which the government chooses to commence removal proceedings, including the
17 decision to detain an alien pending removal. *See Alvarez v. ICE*, 818 F.3d 1194, 1203
18 (11th Cir. 2016) ("By its plain terms, [§ 1252(g)] bars us from questioning ICE's
19 discretionary decisions to commence removal" and bars review of "ICE's decision to
20 take [plaintiff] into custody and to detain him during his removal proceedings").

21 Removal proceedings commence by the filing of an NTA in immigration court.
22 *See Jimenez-Angeles v. Ashcroft*, 291 F.3d 594, 600 (9th Cir. 2002). "The Attorney
23 General may arrest the alien against whom proceedings are commenced and detain that
24 individual until the conclusion of those proceedings." *Herrera-Correra v. United*
25 *States*, No. 08-2941 DSF (JCx), 2008 WL 11336833, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 11, 2008).
26 "[A]n alien's detention throughout this process arises from the Attorney General's
27 decision to commence proceedings." *Id.* (citing *Sissoko v. Rocha*, 509 F.3d 947, 949
28 (9th Cir. 2007)); 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g); but see *Vasquez Garcia v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-

1 02180-DMS-MMP, 2025 WL 2549431, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 3, 2025).

2 Here, Petitioner's claims arise from her detention during removal proceedings,
3 which stem from the Attorney General's decision to commence such proceedings. As
4 such, § 1252(g) bars this Court's review over Petitioner's claims. *See S.Q.D.C. v. Bondi*,
5 No. 25-3348 (PAM/DLM), 2025 WL 2617973, at * 2 (D. Minn. Sept. 9, 2025) (finding
6 that § 1252(g) jurisdictionally bars review of a petitioner's challenge to ongoing
7 detention during removal proceedings).

8 Moreover, under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)(9), “[j]udicial review of all questions of law
9 and fact . . . *arising from any action taken or proceeding brought to remove an alien*
10 *from the United States* under this subchapter shall be available only in judicial review
11 of a final order under this section.” (emphasis added). Further, judicial review of a final
12 order is available only through “a petition for review filed with an appropriate court of
13 appeals.” 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(5). The Supreme Court has made clear that § 1252(b)(9)
14 is “the unmistakable ‘zipper’ clause,” channeling “judicial review of all” “decisions and
15 actions leading up to or consequent upon final orders of deportation,” including “non-
16 final order[s],” into proceedings before a court of appeals. *Reno v. Am.-Arab Anti-*
17 *Discrimination Comm.*, 525 U.S. 471, 483, 485 (1999); *see J.E.F.M. v Lynch*, 837 F.3d
18 1026, 1031 (9th Cir. 2016) (noting § 1252(b)(9) is “breathtaking in scope and vise-like
19 in grip and therefore swallows up virtually all claims that are tied to removal
20 proceedings”). “Taken together, § 1252(a)(5) and § 1252(b)(9) mean that *any* issue—
21 whether legal or factual—arising from *any* removal-related activity can be reviewed
22 *only* through the [petition for review] PFR process.” *J.E.F.M.*, 837 F.3d at 1031
23 (“[W]hile these sections limit *how* immigrants can challenge their removal proceedings,
24 they are not jurisdiction-stripping statutes that, by their terms, foreclose *all* judicial
25 review of agency actions. Instead, the provisions channel judicial review over final
26 orders of removal to the courts of appeal.”) (emphasis in original); *see id.* at 1035 (“§§
27 1252(a)(5) and [(b)(9)] channel review of all claims, including policies-and-practices
28 challenges . . . whenever they ‘arise from’ removal proceedings”). These provisions

1 divest district courts of jurisdiction to review both direct and indirect challenges to
2 removal orders, including decisions to detain for purposes of removal or for
3 proceedings. *See Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 294–95 (section 1252(b)(9) includes challenges
4 to the “decision to detain [an alien] in the first place or to seek removal”).

5 While holding that it was unnecessary to comprehensively address the scope of
6 § 1252(b)(9), the Supreme Court in *Jennings* provided guidance on the types of
7 challenges that may fall within the scope of § 1252(b)(9). *See Jennings*, 583 U.S. at
8 293–94. The Court found that “§ 1252(b)(9) [did] not present a jurisdictional bar” in
9 situations where “respondents . . . [were] not challenging the decision to detain them in
10 the first place.” *Id.* at 294–95. In this case, Petitioner does challenge the government’s
11 decision to detain her in the first place. Though Petitioner attempts to frame her
12 challenge as one relating to detention authority, rather than a challenge to DHS’s
13 decision to detain her in the first instance, such creative framing does not evade the
14 preclusive effect of § 1252(b)(9). Indeed, that Petitioner is challenging the basis upon
15 which she is detained is enough to trigger § 1252(b)(9) because “detention is an ‘action
16 taken . . . to remove’ an alien.” *See Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 319 (emphasis in original);
17 *see also* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)(9).

18 The Court should dismiss this matter for lack of jurisdiction under 8 U.S.C.
19 § 1252. *See S.Q.D.C.*, 2025 WL 2617973.

20 **B. Petitioner is Subject to Mandatory Detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225**

21 Based on the plain language of the statute, the Court should reject Petitioner’s
22 argument that § 1226(a) governs her detention instead of § 1225. *See ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 24–*
23 *44*. Section 1225(b)(2)(A) requires mandatory detention of “an alien who is an
24 applicant for admission, if the examining immigration officer determines that an alien
25 seeking admission is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted[.]” *Chavez*
26 *v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-02325, 2025 WL 2730228, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 24, 2025)
27 (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A)) (emphasis in original). Section 1225(a)(1)
28 “expressly defines that ‘[a]n alien present in the United States who has not been

1 admitted ... shall be deemed for purposes of this Act *an applicant for admission.*” *Id.*
2 (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1)) (emphasis in original). Here, Petitioner is an “alien
3 present in the United States who has not been admitted.” Thus, as found by the district
4 court in *Chavez v. Noem* and as mandated by the plain language of the statute, Petitioner
5 is an “applicant for admission” and subject to the mandatory detention provisions of §
6 1225(b)(2).

7 When the plain text of a statute is clear, “that meaning is controlling” and courts
8 “need not examine legislative history.” *Washington v. Chimei Innolux Corp.*, 659 F.3d
9 842, 848 (9th Cir. 2011). But to the extent legislative history is relevant here, nothing
10 “refutes the plain language” of § 1225. *Suzlon Energy Ltd. v. Microsoft Corp.*, 671 F.3d
11 726, 730 (9th Cir. 2011). Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and
12 Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (“IIRIRA”) to correct “an anomaly whereby
13 immigrants who were attempting to lawfully enter the United States were in a worse
14 position than persons who had crossed the border unlawfully.” *Torres v. Barr*, 976 F.3d
15 918, 928 (9th Cir. 2020) (en banc), *declined to extend by*, *United States v. Gambino-*
16 *Ruiz*, 91 F.4th 981 (9th Cir. 2024); *see Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. at 223-
17 34 (citing H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, pt. 1, at 225 (1996)). It “intended to replace certain
18 aspects of the [then] current ‘entry doctrine,’ under which illegal aliens who have
19 entered the United States without inspection gain equities and privileges in immigration
20 proceedings that are not available to aliens who present themselves for inspection at a
21 port of entry.” *Id.* (quoting H.R. Rep. 104-469, pt. 1, at 225). Interpreting § 1225 to only
22 apply to aliens encountered attempting to enter the United States or aliens encountered
23 shortly after they gained entry without inspection would put aliens who “crossed the
24 border unlawfully” in a better position than those “who present themselves for
25 inspection at a port of entry.” *Id.* Aliens who presented at a port of entry would be
26 subject to mandatory detention under § 1225, but those who crossed illegally would be
27 eligible for a bond under § 1226(a). *See Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. at 225
28 (“The House Judiciary Committee Report makes clear that Congress intended to

1 eliminate the prior statutory scheme that provided aliens who entered the United States
2 without inspection more procedural and substantive rights than those who presented
3 themselves to authorities for inspection.”). Thus, the Court should “refuse to interpret
4 the INA in a way that would in effect repeal that statutory fix’ intended by Congress in
5 enacting the IIRIRA.” *Chavez*, 2025 WL 2730228, at *4 (quoting *Gambino-Ruiz*, 91
6 F.4th at 990).

7 The plain language of the § 1225(b)(2) does not contradict nor render § 1226(a)
8 superfluous. In *Chavez v. Noem*, the court noted that § 1226(a) “generally governs the
9 process of arresting and detaining’ certain aliens, namely ‘aliens who were inadmissible
10 at the time of entry *or who have been convicted of certain criminal offenses since
admission.*’” 2025 WL 2730228, at *5 (quoting *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 288) (emphasis
11 in original). In turn, individuals who have not been charged with specific crimes listed
12 in § 1226(c) are still subject to the discretionary detention provisions of § 1226(a) *as
determined by the Attorney General*. See 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) (“*On a warrant issued by
the Attorney General*, an alien may be arrested and detained pending a decision on
16 whether the alien is to be removed from the United States.”) (emphasis added).
17 Therefore, heeding the plain language of § 1225(b)(2) has no effect on § 1226(a).
18 Similarly, the application of § 1225’s explicit definition of “applicants for admission”
19 does not render the addition of § 1226(c) by the Riley Laken Act superfluous. Once
20 again correctly determined by the district court in *Chavez v. Noem*, the addition of §
21 1226(c) simply removed the Attorney General’s detention discretion for aliens charged
22 with specific crimes. 2025 WL 2730228, at *5.

23 One of the most basic interpretative canons instructs that a “statute should be
24 construed so that effect is given to all its provisions.” See *Corley v. United States*, 556
25 U.S. 303, 314 (2009) (cleaned up). If Congress did not want § 1225(b)(2)(A) to apply
26 to “applicants for admission,” then it would not have included the phrase “applicants
27 for admission” in the subsection. See 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A); *see also Corley*, 556
28 U.S. at 314.

1 Finally, the phrase “alien seeking admission” does not limit the scope of
2 § 1225(b)(2)(A). The BIA has long recognized that “many people who are not *actually*
3 requesting permission to enter the United States in the ordinary sense are nevertheless
4 deemed to be ‘seeking admission’ under the immigration laws.” *Matter of Lemus-Losa*,
5 25 I&N Dec. 734, 743 (BIA 2012) (emphasis in original). Statutory language “is known
6 by the company it keeps.” *Marquez-Reyes v. Garland*, 36 F.4th 1195, 1202 (9th Cir.
7 2022) (quoting *McDonnell v. United States*, 579 U.S. 550, 569 (2016)). The phrase
8 “seeking admission” in § 1225(b)(2)(A) must be read in the context of the definition of
9 “applicant for admission” in § 1225(a)(1). Applicants for admission are both those
10 individuals present without admission and those who arrive in the United States. *See* 8
11 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1). Both are understood to be “seeking admission” under § 1225(a)(1).
12 *See Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. at 221; *Lemus-Losa*, 25 I&N Dec. at 743.
13 Congress made that clear in § 1225(a)(3), which requires all aliens “who are applicants
14 for admission or otherwise seeking admission” to be inspected by immigration officers.
15 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(3). The word “or” here “introduce[s] an appositive—a word or phrase
16 that is synonymous with what precedes it (‘Vienna or Wien,’ ‘Batman or the Caped
17 Crusader’).” *United States v. Woods*, 571 U.S. 31, 45 (2013). Further, § 1225(a)(5)
18 provides that “[a]n applicant for admission may be required to state under oath any
19 information sought by an immigration officer regarding the purposes and intentions of
20 the applicant in seeking admission to the United States.” The reasonable import of this
21 particular phrasing is that one who is an applicant for admission is considered to be
22 “seeking admission” under the statute.

23 Because Petitioner is properly detained under § 1225, as confirmed by the BIA
24 in vacating the IJ’s order, Petitioner cannot show entitlement to relief.

25 Respondents acknowledge that courts in this district have recently rejected
26 similar arguments in other habeas matters. While Respondents maintain that Petitioner
27 is properly subject to mandatory detention under § 1225, to the extent the Court finds
28 this Petitioner subject to detention authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), Respondents’

1 position is that the proper remedy would be directing a new bond hearing under
2 § 1226(a). This Court lacks jurisdiction in this matter to order release or the
3 reinstatement of the IJ's bond order that was vacated by the BIA. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(e)
4 (“No court may set aside any action or decision by the Attorney General under this
5 section regarding the detention or any alien or the revocation or denial of bond or
6 parole.”); *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 295 (“As we have previously explained, § 1226(e)
7 precludes an alien from ‘challeng[ing] a ‘discretionary judgment’ by the Attorney
8 General or a ‘decision’ that the Attorney General has made regarding his detention or
9 release.’ But § 1226(e) does not preclude ‘challenges [to] the statutory framework that
10 permits [the alien’s] detention without bail.’”); 8 U.S.C. § 1226(b) (“The Attorney
11 General at any time may revoke a bond or parole authorized under subsection (a),
12 rearrest the alien under the original warrant, and detain the alien.”). Thus, if this Court
13 is so inclined to find Petitioner subject to the provisions of § 1226(a), the proper remedy
14 is a new bond hearing, rather than release.

15 **V. CONCLUSION**

16 For the foregoing reasons, Respondents respectfully request that the Court
17 dismiss this action for failure to establish habeas relief.

18 DATED: November 3, 2025

19 Respectfully submitted,

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21 United States Attorney

22 s/ Alyssa Sanderson
23 ALYSSA SANDERSON
24 Assistant United States Attorney
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