

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

JEFFERSON OMAR HERRA
MARTINEZ,

PETITIONER

v.

PATRICIA HYDE, Field Office
Director,
MICHAEL NESSINGER
Superintendent, Wyatt R Wyatt
Detention Facility, et al

RESPONDENTS.

C.A. No. 25-cv-575-JJM-AEM

**ABBREVIATED RESPONSE TO AMENDED HABEAS PETITION AND
REQUEST TO PROCEED WITHOUT ADDITIONAL BRIEFING OR
ARGUMENT**

The legal issues presented in this Amended Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (“Petition”) concern the statutory authority for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (“ICE”) detention of Petitioner, whether Petitioner is entitled to a bond hearing, and if so, whether Petitioner must first exhaust his administrative remedies. While reserving all rights, including the right to appeal, Respondents submit this abbreviated response in lieu of an exhaustive responsive memorandum to preserve the legal issues and to conserve judicial and party resources.¹

On October 31, 2025, Petitioner filed an Motion for Writ of Habeas Corpus. The Petition claimed, *inter alia*, that Petitioner’s detention violates the Immigration and Naturalization Act and associated regulations, as well as due process claims. ECF. No

¹ In addition to the arguments raised in this Abbreviated Response, Respondents also move for all Respondents other than Respondent Nessinger to be dismissed from this action as they are not Petitioner’s custodian. *See Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, 542 U.S. 426, 434-36 (2004) (noting that for habeas petitions challenging detention, “the default rule is that the proper respondent is the warden of the facility where the prisoner is being held, not the Attorney General or some other remote supervisory official”).

1. The Respondents' position is that Petitioner is lawfully detained pursuant 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2), and as such is subject to mandatory detention.

Respondents acknowledge that several recent decisions from this Court and other District Courts, including in the District of Massachusetts concerning similar challenges to the government policy or practice at issue in this case, and the common question of law between this case and those rulings would control the result in this case should this Court adhere to the legal reasoning in those prior decisions. *See e.g., Astudillo v. Hyde, et al.*, No. 25-551-JJM-AEM (D.R.I. October 30, 2025); *Elias v. Hyde, et al.*, No. 25-cv-540-JJM (D.R.I. Oct. 27, 2025); *Rodriguez v. Nessinger*, No. 25-cv-505-MSM (D.R.I. October 17, 2025); *Doe v. Moniz*, No. 25-cv-12094-IT, 2025 WL 2576819 (D. Mass. Sept. 5, 2025), and *Escobar v. Hyde*, No. 25-cv- 12620-IT, 2025 WL 2823324 (D. Mass. Oct. 3, 2025). While Respondents respectfully disagree with those decisions, in the interest of judicial economy, and to expedite the Court's consideration of this matter, Respondents hereby rely upon the legal arguments by the Respondents in the District of Massachusetts cases, *Doe v. Moniz*, No. 25-cv-12094-IT, and *Escobar v. Hyde*, No. 25-cv-12620-IT. The Respondents recognize that given the common question of law in the above-cited cases and Petitioner's Writ, if the Court applies the same reasoning the courts did in the above-cited cases to this one, the legal principles espoused in those cases would likely warrant the same result in this case. Should the Court decide that Petitioner is subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226, the appropriate remedy is to order a bond hearing before an immigration judge, and not to immediately release Petitioner.

Should the Court prefer to receive a more exhaustive and fulsome opposition brief, Respondents respectfully request leave to file such a brief and will do so upon the Court's request.

Relevant Underlying Facts

Petitioner is a native and citizen of Guatemala. Petitioner entered the United States as an unaccompanied minor without admission or parole in March 2021. He was detained until his release on an order of recognizance on May 20, 2021. When he was encountered by Immigration and Customs Enforcement on August 11, 2025, his order of recognizance was canceled, he remains detained.

Discussion

In his Petition, Petitioner principally seeks an order from this Court directing ICE to immediately release Petitioner from ICE detention and order a bond hearing pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven days.

Respondents contend that Petitioner's detention is governed by INA § 235, 8 U.S.C. § 1225, because as an alien who entered without inspection or parole was and remains an applicant for admission who is treated, for constitutional purposes, as if stopped at the border. As such, he is subject to mandatory detention and not entitled to a bond hearing. Respondents further contend that Petitioner should be required to exhaust his administrative remedies as a prudential matter before bringing a habeas challenge in federal court.

Respondents further rely upon *In re Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (B.I.A. 2025). There, the BIA examined the plain language of § 1225, the INA's statutory scheme, Supreme Court and BIA precedent, the legislative history of the INA and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 ("IIRIRA"), Pub L. No. 104- 208, and DHS's prior practices. After doing so, the BIA

held that “under a plain language reading of section 235(b)(2)(A) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), Immigration Judges lack authority to hear bond requests or to grant bond to aliens, like the respondent, who are present in the United States without admission.” 29 I&N Dec. at 225. This Court should rule the same.

Respondents acknowledge that questions of law in this case, and the challenges to the government’s policy and practice, substantially overlap with those at issue in the cases cited above. Accordingly, while preserving all rights, Respondents incorporate by reference the legal arguments it presented in those cases. Should the Court apply the same reasoning the courts did in those cases to this one, the legal principles espoused in those cases would likely warrant the same conclusion here. Because of this, Respondents submit that further briefing and/or oral argument on the legal issues addressed in those cases would not be a good use of judicial or party resources. In its current posture, the Court can decide this matter without delay. If, however, the Court prefers to receive a formal and exhaustive opposition brief in this matter, Respondents will provide such a brief upon the Court’s request.

Further, Respondents contend that should this Court determine that Petitioner’s detention is subject to 8 U.S.C. § 1226, the appropriate remedy is a bond hearing before an Immigration Judge, during which an immigration judge can properly determine in the first instance whether Petitioner is a flight risk or danger to the community. *See, e.g., Doe*, 2025 WL 2576819, at *11; *Escobar*, 2025 WL 2823324, at *3 (ordering bond hearing); No. 25-cv-011571- JEK, 2025 WL 1869299, at

*8-*9 (D. Mass. July 7, 2025) (finding the proper remedy is a bond hearing); *Romero*,
2025 WL 2403827, at *13 (same).

Conclusion

Respondents thank the Court for its consideration of this abbreviated submission
and respectfully request that the Court to deny this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

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