

1 ADAM GORDON
United States Attorney
2 ERIN M. DIMBLEBY
California Bar No. 323359
3 SHITAL H. THAKKAR
Illinois Bar No. 6273151
4 Assistant U.S. Attorneys
5 Office of the U.S. Attorney
880 Front Street, Room 6293
6 San Diego, CA 92101-8893
7 Telephone: (619) 546-6987
Facsimile: (619) 546-7751
8 Email: erin.dimbleby@usdoj.gov
9 Attorneys for Respondents

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11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
12 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

13 SERGIO LUIS LAGARDA-VEGA,

14
15 Petitioner,

16 v.

17 CHRISTOPHER J. LAROSE; et al.,

18
19 Respondents.

Case No.: 25-cv-02970-GPC-DDL

**RESPONDENTS' RETURN TO
HABEAS PETITION**

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I. Introduction and Summary of Argument

Petitioner has filed a habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Petitioner is currently in removal proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1229a and is charged with two counts of inadmissibility: (1) under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) (an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or paroled; and (2) under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) (an immigrant who, at the time of his application for admission, was not in possession of any valid entry document). *See* Exhibit 1 (Notice to Appear). As Petitioner is inadmissible and statutorily an applicant for admission, Petitioner is mandatorily detained in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). Based on the arguments set forth below, the Court should deny any requests for relief and dismiss the petition.

II. Statutory Background

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 subject to removal, and detain them during removal proceedings. *See Abel v. United States*, 362 U.S. 217, 232–37 (1960). “The rule has been clear for decades: ‘[d]etention during deportation proceedings [i]s ... constitutionally valid.’” *Banyee v. Garland*, 115 F.4th 928 (8th Cir. 2024) (quoting *Demore v. Kim*, 538 U.S. 510, 523 (2003)), rehearing by panel and en banc denied, *Banyee v. Bondi*, No. 22-2252, 2025 WL 837914 (8th Cir. Mar. 18, 2025); *see Carlson v. Landon*, 342 U.S. 524, 538 (1952) (“Detention is necessarily a part of this deportation procedure.”); *Demore*, 538 U.S. at 523 n.7 (“In fact, prior to 1907 there was no provision permitting bail for *any* aliens during the pendency of their deportation proceedings.”). The Supreme Court even recognized that removal proceedings “‘would be [in] vain if those accused could not be held in custody pending the inquiry into their true character.’” *Demore*, 538 U.S. at

523 (quoting *Wong Wing v. United States*, 163 U.S. 228, 235 (1896)). Over the century, Congress has enacted a multi-layered statutory scheme for the civil detention of aliens pending a decision on removal, during the administrative and judicial review of removal orders, and in preparation for removal. *See generally* 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225, 1226, 1231. It is the interplay between these statutes that is at issue here.

B. Detention Under 8 U.S.C. § 1225

“To implement its immigration policy, the Government must be able to decide (1) who may enter the country and (2) who may stay here after entering.” *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 286 (2018). Section 1225 governs inspection, the initial step in this process, *id.*, stating that all “applicants for admission . . . shall be inspected by immigration officers.” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(3). The statute—in a provision entitled “ALIENS TREATED AS APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION”—dictates who “shall be deemed for purposes of this chapter an applicant for admission,” defining that term to encompass *both* an alien “present in the United States who has not been admitted *or* [one] who arrives in the United States . . .” *Id.* § 1225(a)(1) (emphasis added). Section 1225(b) governs the inspection procedures applicable to all applicants for admission. They “fall into one of two categories, those covered by § 1225(b)(1) and those covered by § 1225(b)(2).” *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 287.

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

1 fear of persecution, or is “found not to have such a fear,” they are detained until removed
2 from the United States. *Id.* §§ 1225(b)(1)(A)(i), (B)(iii)(IV).

3 Section 1225(b)(2) is “broader” and “serves as a catchall provision.” *Jennings*,
4 583 U.S. at 287. It “applies to all applicants for admission not covered by § 1225(b)(1).”
5 *Id.* Under § 1225(b)(2), an alien “who is an applicant for admission” shall be detained
6 for a removal proceeding “if the examining immigration officer determines that [the]
7 alien seeking admission is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted.” 8
8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A); see *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216, 220 (BIA
9 2025) (“[A]liens who are present in the United States without admission are applicants
10 for admission as defined under section 235(b)(2)(A) of the INA, 8 U.S.C.
11 § 1225(b)(2)(A), and must be detained for the duration of their removal proceedings.”);
12 *Matter of Q. Li*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 66, 68 (BIA 2025) (“for aliens arriving in and seeking
13 admission into the United States who are placed directly in full removal proceedings,
14 section 235(b)(2)(A) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A), mandates detention ‘until
15 removal proceedings have concluded.’”) (citing *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 299). However,
16 DHS has the sole discretionary authority to temporarily release on parole “any alien
17 applying for admission to the United States” on a “case-by-case basis for urgent
18 humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.” *Id.* § 1182(d)(5)(A); see *Biden v.*
19 *Texas*, 597 U.S. 785, 806 (2022).

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

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

236.1(d)(1), 1236.1(d)(1), 1003.19.

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

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

Included within the Attorney General and DHS’s discretionary authority are limits on the delegation to the immigration court. Under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(h)(2)(i)(B), the IJ does not have authority to redetermine the conditions of custody imposed by DHS for any arriving alien. The regulations also include a provision that allows DHS to invoke an automatic stay of any decision by an IJ to release an individual on bond when DHS files an appeal of the custody redetermination. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(i)(2) (“The decision whether or not to file [an automatic stay] is subject to the discretion of the Secretary.”).

D. Review Before the Board of Immigration Appeals

The BIA is an appellate body within the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) and possesses delegated authority from the Attorney General. 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.1(a)(1), (d)(1). The BIA is “charged with the review of those administrative adjudications under the [INA] that the Attorney General may by regulation assign to

1 it,” including IJ custody determinations. 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.1(d)(1), 236.1, 1236.1. The
2 BIA not only resolves particular disputes before it, but is also directed to, “through
3 precedent decisions, [] provide clear and uniform guidance to DHS, the immigration
4 judges, and the general public on the proper interpretation and administration of the
5 [INA] and its implementing regulations.” *Id.* § 1003.1(d)(1). Decisions rendered by the
6 BIA are final, except for those reviewed by the Attorney General. 8 C.F.R. §
7 1003.1(d)(7).

8 If an automatic stay of a custody decision is invoked by DHS, regulations require
9 the BIA to track the progress of the custody appeal “to avoid unnecessary delays in
10 completing the record for decision.” 8 C.F.R. § 1003.6(c)(3). The stay lapses in 90 days,
11 unless the detainee seeks an extension of time to brief the custody appeal, 8 C.F.R.
12 § 1003.6(c)(4), or unless DHS seeks, and the BIA grants, a discretionary stay. 8 C.F.R.
13 § 1003.6(c)(5).

14 If the BIA denies DHS’s custody appeal, the automatic stay remains in effect for
15 five business days. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.6(d). DHS may, during that five-day period, refer
16 the case to the Attorney General under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(h)(1) for consideration. *Id.*
17 Upon referral to the Attorney General, the release is stayed for 15 business days while
18 the case is considered. The Attorney General may extend the stay of release upon
19 motion by DHS. *Id.*

20 **III. Argument**

21 **A. Claims and Requested Relief Jurisdictionally Barred**

22 Petitioner bears the burden of establishing that this Court has subject matter
23 jurisdiction over asserted claims. *See Ass’n of Am. Med. Coll. v. United States*, 217 F.3d
24 770, 778-79 (9th Cir. 2000); *Finley v. United States*, 490 U.S. 545, 547-48 (1989).

25 In general, courts lack jurisdiction to review a decision to commence or
26 adjudicate removal proceedings or execute removal orders. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g)
27 (“[N]o court shall have jurisdiction to hear any cause or claim by or on behalf of any
28 alien arising from the decision or action by the Attorney General to commence

proceedings, adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders.”); *Reno v. Am.-Arab Anti-Discrimination Comm.*, 525 U.S. 471, 483 (1999) (“There was good reason for Congress to focus special attention upon, and make special provision for, judicial review of the Attorney General’s discrete acts of “commenc[ing] proceedings, adjudicat[ing] cases, [and] execut[ing] removal orders”—which represent the initiation or prosecution of various stages in the deportation process.”); *Limpin v. United States*, 828 Fed. App’x 429 (9th Cir. 2020) (holding district court properly dismissed under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g) “because claims stemming from the decision to arrest and detain an alien at the commencement of removal proceedings are not within any court’s jurisdiction”). In other words, § 1252(g) removes district court jurisdiction over “three discrete actions that the Attorney may take: [his] ‘decision or action’ to ‘commence proceedings, adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders.’” *Reno*, 525 U.S. at 482 (emphasis removed). Congress has explicitly foreclosed district court jurisdiction over claims that necessarily arise “from the decision or action by the Attorney General to commence proceedings [and] adjudicate cases,” over which. 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g).

Section 1252(g) also bars district courts from hearing challenges to the method by which the government chooses to commence removal proceedings, including the decision to detain an alien pending removal. *See Alvarez v. ICE*, 818 F.3d 1194, 1203 (11th Cir. 2016) (“By its plain terms, [§ 1252(g)] bars us from questioning ICE’s discretionary decisions to commence removal” and bars review of “ICE’s decision to take [plaintiff] into custody and to detain him during his removal proceedings”).

Other courts have held, “[f]or the purposes of § 1252, the Attorney General commences proceedings against an alien when the alien is issued a Notice to Appear before an immigration court.” *Herrera-Correra v. United States*, No. 08-2941 DSF (JCx), 2008 WL 11336833, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 11, 2008). “The Attorney General may arrest the alien against whom proceedings are commenced and detain that individual until the conclusion of those proceedings.” *Id.* at *3. “Thus, an alien’s detention throughout this process arises from the Attorney General’s decision to

1 commence proceedings” and review of claims arising from such detention is barred
2 under § 1252(g). *Id.* (citing *Sissoko v. Rocha*, 509 F.3d 947, 949 (9th Cir. 2007)); *Wang*,
3 2010 WL 11463156, at *6; 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g).

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

24 Critically, “1252(b)(9) is a judicial channeling provision, not a claim-barring
25 one.” *Aguilar v. ICE*, 510 F.3d 1, 11 (1st Cir. 2007). Indeed, 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(D)
26 provides that “[n]othing . . . in any other provision of this chapter . . . shall be construed
27 as precluding review of constitutional claims or questions of law raised upon a petition
28 for review filed with an appropriate court of appeals in accordance with this section.”

1 See also *Ajlani v. Chertoff*, 545 F.3d 229, 235 (2d Cir. 2008) (“[J]urisdiction to review
2 such claims is vested exclusively in the courts of appeals[.]”). The petition-for-review
3 process before the court of appeals ensures that noncitizens have a proper forum for
4 claims arising from their immigration proceedings and “receive their day in court.”
5 *J.E.F.M.*, 837 F.3d at 1031–32 (internal quotations omitted); see also *Rosario v. Holder*,
6 627 F.3d 58, 61 (2d Cir. 2010) (“The REAL ID Act of 2005 amended the [INA] to
7 obviate . . . Suspension Clause concerns” by permitting judicial review of
8 “nondiscretionary” BIA determinations and “all constitutional claims or questions of
9 law.”). These provisions divest district courts of jurisdiction to review both direct and
10 indirect challenges to removal orders, including decisions to detain for purposes of
11 removal or for proceedings. See *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 294–95 (section 1252(b)(9)
12 includes challenges to the “decision to detain [an alien] in the first place or to seek
13 removal”).

14 In evaluating the reach of subsections (a)(5) and (b)(9), the Second Circuit has
15 explained that jurisdiction turns on the substance of the relief sought. *Delgado v.*
16 *Quarantillo*, 643 F.3d 52, 55 (2d Cir. 2011). Those provisions divest district courts of
17 jurisdiction to review both direct and indirect challenges to removal orders, including
18 decisions to detain for purposes of removal or for proceedings. See *Jennings*, 583 U.S.
19 at 294–95 (section 1252(b)(9) includes challenges to the “decision to detain [an alien]
20 in the first place or to seek removal[.]”). Here, Petitioner challenges the government’s
21 decision and action to detain, which arises from DHS’s decision to commence removal
22 proceedings, and is thus an “action taken . . . to remove [him/her] from the United
23 States.” See 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)(9); see also, e.g., *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 294–95; *Velasco*
24 *Lopez v. Decker*, 978 F.3d 842, 850 (2d Cir. 2020) (finding that 8 U.S.C. § 1226(e) did
25 not bar review in that case because the petitioner did not challenge “his initial
26 detention”); *Saadulloev v. Garland*, No. 3:23-CV-00106, 2024 WL 1076106, at *3
27 (W.D. Pa. Mar. 12, 2024) (recognizing that there is no judicial review of the threshold
28

1 detention decision, which flows from the government's decision to "commence
2 proceedings").

3 Accordingly, this Court lacks jurisdiction over this petition under 8 U.S.C.
4 § 1252.¹ See *Acxel S.Q.D.C. v. Bondi*, No. 25-3348 (PAM/DLM), 2025 U.S. Dist.
5 LEXIS 175957 (D. Minn. Sept. 9, 2025).

6 **B. Petitioner is Lawfully Detained**

7 Petitioner's claims for alleged statutory and constitutional violations fail because
8 Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225.

9 Based on the plain language of the statute, Petitioner's detention is governed by
10 § 1225. Section 1225(b)(2)(A) requires mandatory detention of "an alien who is *an*
11 *applicant for admission*, if the examining immigration officer determines that an alien
12 seeking admission is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted[.]" *Chavez*
13 *v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-02325, 2025 WL 2730228, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 24, 2025)
14 (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A)) (emphasis in original). Section 1225(a)(1)
15 "expressly defines that '[a]n alien present in the United States who has not been
16 admitted ... shall be deemed for purposes of this Act *an applicant for admission*.'" *Id.*
17 (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1)) (emphasis in original). Here, Petitioner is an "alien
18 present in the United States who has not been admitted." Thus, as found by the district
19 court in *Chavez v. Noem* and as mandated by the plain language of the statute, Petitioner
20 is an "applicant for admission" and subject to the mandatory detention provisions of

21
22 ¹ On an alternative basis, the Court should ensure Petitioner properly exhausts
23 administrative remedies. The Ninth Circuit requires that "habeas petitioners exhaust
24 available judicial and administrative remedies before seeking relief under § 2241."
25 *Castro-Cortez v. INS*, 239 F.3d 1037, 1047 (9th Cir. 2001). "When a petitioner does
26 not exhaust administrative remedies, a district court ordinarily should either dismiss the
27 petition without prejudice or stay the proceedings until the petitioner has exhausted
28 remedies, unless exhaustion is excused." *Leonardo v. Crawford*, 646 F.3d 1157, 1160
(9th Cir. 2011); see also *Alvarado v. Holder*, 759 F.3d 1121, 1127 n.5 (9th Cir. 2014)
(issue exhaustion is a jurisdictional requirement); *Tijani v. Holder*, 628 F.3d 1071, 1080
(9th Cir. 2010) (no jurisdiction to review legal claims not presented in the petitioner's
administrative proceedings before the BIA).

1 § 1225(b)(2).

2 When the plain text of a statute is clear, “that meaning is controlling” and courts
3 “need not examine legislative history.” *Washington v. Chimei Innolux Corp.*, 659 F.3d
4 842, 848 (9th Cir. 2011). But to the extent legislative history is relevant here, nothing
5 “refutes the plain language” of § 1225. *Suzlon Energy Ltd. v. Microsoft Corp.*, 671 F.3d
6 726, 730 (9th Cir. 2011). Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and
7 Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA) to correct “an anomaly whereby
8 immigrants who were attempting to lawfully enter the United States were in a worse
9 position than persons who had crossed the border unlawfully.” *Torres v. Barr*, 976 F.3d
10 918, 928 (9th Cir. 2020) (en banc), *declined to extend by*, *United States v. Gambino-*
11 *Ruiz*, 91 F.4th 981 (9th Cir. 2024); *see Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. at 223-
12 34 (citing H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, pt. 1, at 225 (1996)). It “intended to replace certain
13 aspects of the [then] current ‘entry doctrine,’ under which illegal aliens who have
14 entered the United States without inspection gain equities and privileges in immigration
15 proceedings that are not available to aliens who present themselves for inspection at a
16 port of entry.” *Id.* (quoting H.R. Rep. 104-469, pt. 1, at 225). A contrary interpretation
17 would put aliens who “crossed the border unlawfully” in a better position than those
18 “who present themselves for inspection at a port of entry.” *Id.* Aliens who presented at
19 a port of entry would be subject to mandatory detention under § 1225, but those who
20 crossed illegally would be eligible for a bond under § 1226(a). *See Matter of Yajure*
21 *Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. at 225 (“The House Judiciary Committee Report makes clear
22 that Congress intended to eliminate the prior statutory scheme that provided aliens who
23 entered the United States without inspection more procedural and substantive rights that
24 those who presented themselves to authorities for inspection.”). The court should
25 “‘refuse to interpret the INA in a way that would in effect repeal that statutory fix’
26 intended by Congress in enacting the IIRIRA.” *Chavez*, 2025 WL 2730228, at *4
27 (quoting *Gambino-Ruiz*, 91 F.4th at 990).

28 The plain language of the § 1225(b)(2) does not contradict nor render § 1226(a)

1 superfluous. In *Chavez v. Noem*, the Court noted that § 1226(a) “‘generally governs the
2 process of arresting and detaining’ certain aliens, namely ‘aliens who were inadmissible
3 at the time of entry or who have been convicted of certain criminal offenses since
4 admission.’” *Chavez*, 2025 WL 2730228, at *5 (quoting *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 288)
5 (emphasis in original). In turn, individuals who have not been charged with specific
6 crimes listed in § 1226(c) are still subject to the discretionary detention provisions of §
7 1226(a) *as determined by the Attorney General*. See 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) (“*On a warrant*
8 *issued by the Attorney General*, an alien may be arrested and detained pending a
9 decision on whether the alien is to be removed from the United States.”) (emphasis
10 added). Therefore, heeding the plain language of § 1225(b)(2) has no effect on
11 § 1226(a). Similarly, the application of § 1225’s explicit definition of “applicants for
12 admission” does not render the addition of § 1226(c) by the Riley Laken Act
13 superfluous. Once again correctly determined by the district court in *Chavez v. Noem*,
14 the addition of § 1226(c) simply removed the Attorney General’s detention discretion
15 for aliens charged with specific crimes. 2025 WL 2730228, at *5.

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

22 Finally, the phrase “alien seeking admission” does not limit the scope of
23 § 1225(b)(2)(A). The BIA has long recognized that “many people who are not *actually*
24 requesting permission to enter the United States in the ordinary sense are nevertheless
25 deemed to be ‘seeking admission’ under the immigration laws.” *Matter of Lemus-Losa*,
26 25 I&N Dec. 734, 743 (BIA 2012). Statutory language “is known by the company it
27 keeps.” *Marquez-Reyes v. Garland*, 36 F.4th 1195, 1202 (9th Cir. 2022) (quoting
28 *McDonnell v. United States*, 579 U.S. 550, 569 (2016)). The phrase “seeking

admission” in § 1225(b)(2)(A) must be read in the context of the definition of “applicant for admission” in § 1225(a)(1). Applicants for admission are both those individuals present without admission and those who arrive in the United States. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1). Both are understood to be “seeking admission” under § 1225(a)(1). *See Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. at 221; *Lemus-Losa*, 25 I&N Dec. at 743. Congress made that clear in § 1225(a)(3), which requires all aliens “who are applicants for admission or otherwise seeking admission” to be inspected by immigration officers. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(3). The word “or” here “introduce[s] an appositive—a word or phrase that is synonymous with what precedes it (‘Vienna or Wien,’ ‘Batman or the Caped Crusader’).” *United States v. Woods*, 571 U.S. 31, 45 (2013). Further, § 1225(a)(5) provides that “[a]n applicant for admission may be required to state under oath any information sought by an immigration officer regarding the purposes and intentions of the applicant in seeking admission to the United States.” The reasonable import of this particular phrasing is that one who is an applicant for admission is considered to be “seeking admission” under the statute.

Because Petitioner is properly detained under § 1225, Petitioner cannot show entitlement to relief.

Even if the Court infers a constitutional right against prolonged mandatory detention, Petitioner’s claim still fails. “In general, as detention continues past a year, courts become extremely wary of permitting continued custody absent a bond hearing.” *Sibomana v. LaRose*, No. 22-cv-933-LL-NLS, 2023 WL 3028093, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Apr. 20, 2023) (citation omitted); *see also, e.g., Sanchez-Rivera v. Matuszewski*, No. 22-cv-1357-MMA-JLB, 2023 WL 139801, at *6 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 9, 2023) (detained for three years); *Durand v. Allen*, No. 3:23-cv-00279-RBM-BGS, 2024 WL 711607, at *5 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 21, 2024) (over two-and-a-half years); *Yagao v. Figueroa*, No. 17-cv-2224-AJB-MDD, 2019 WL 1429582, at *2 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 29, 2019) (two years). Petitioner’s detention falls significantly short of the length courts have found to raise due process concerns.

1 Respondents acknowledge that courts in this district have recently rejected
2 similarly arguments in other similar habeas matters. While Respondents maintain that
3 Petitioner is properly subject to mandatory detention under § 1225, to the extent the
4 Court finds this Petitioner subject to detention authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a),
5 Respondents' position is that the proper remedy would be directing a bond hearing
6 under § 1226(a). *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(e) ("No court may set aside any action or decision
7 by the Attorney General under this section regarding the detention or any alien or the
8 revocation or denial of bond or parole."); *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 295
9 (2018) ("As we have previously explained, § 1226(e) precludes an alien from
10 'challeng[ing] a "discretionary judgment" by the Attorney General or a "decision" that
11 the Attorney General has made regarding his detention or release.' But § 1226(e) does
12 not preclude 'challenges [to] the statutory framework that permits [the alien's] detention
13 without bail.'"); 8 U.S.C. § 1226(b) ("The Attorney General at any time may revoke a
14 bond or parole authorized under subsection (a), rearrest the alien under the original
15 warrant, and detain the alien.").

16 IV. CONCLUSION

17 For the foregoing reasons, Respondents respectfully request that the Court
18 dismiss this action.

19 DATED: November 8, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

20 ADAM GORDON
21 United States Attorney

22 s/Shital H. Thakkar
23 Assistant United States Attorney
24 Attorney for Respondents
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