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Cases: 21-1160 & 20-70877

Emergency Motion

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

11/20/25
ALS

Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry

Petitioner,

v.

Pamela Bondi,

Attorney General of the United States,

Respondent.

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DETAINED

Case Nos. 20-70877 & 21-1160

(Consolidated)

**EMERGENCY MOTION FOR
RELEASE PENDING DECISION**

Emergency Relief Requested No Later Than November 21, 2025

INTRODUCTION

Petitioner Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry is a decorated, 100% service-connected disabled U.S. Army veteran, a husband, and father of two U.S.-citizen toddlers. He has been in civil immigration detention since August 21, 2025 — seized by ICE at a suspiciously scheduled USCIS citizenship, despite an active Ninth Circuit stay of removal and ongoing appellate jurisdiction. **Now, blindness is taking him.**

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Mr. Chaudhry's detention has cut him off from critical, authorized medical care for

thyroid eye disease (TED)—a rare autoimmune condition that, if untreated, causes irreversible vision loss and disfigurement (referring here to orbital distortion, eyelid retraction, and visible eye bulging associated with thyroid eye disease, which qualifies medically and legally as disfigurement). He is now over two months past his prescribed infusion schedule for **Tepezza**, a necessary treatment that costs over a million dollars (per 8-infusion series) to administer, and requires close coordination across four medical specialties for every infusion (endocrinology, ophthalmology, infusion medicine, and audiology).

While detained, ICE bears the burden of his medical care—creating a paradox of **waste, fraud, and abuse**: either taxpayers pay over a million dollars for Petitioner's treatment in ICE custody, or taxpayers bear the costs of ICE's liability for the irreversible blindness caused by their constructive denial of treatment - which violates their own policy. Both outcomes are unacceptable and unlawful.

When free in the community, Petitioner's insurance covers the costs of these treatments. Such insurance has already agreed to pay for it, and was already

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covering these expenses in full earlier this year, when Petitioner was receiving Tepezza infusions and associated care in May-August 2025 prior to his detention.

Furthermore, Petitioner - who has never broken any U.S. laws in over twenty-five years of peaceful, lawful permanent residence - has faithfully attended every single one of his court dates for over 20 years - since 9/11. Such a record of faithful, reliable attendance, on top of his strong family ties, deep community roots, and highly credible sponsors, makes him a safe candidate for release on recognizance.

PROCEDURAL POSTURE AND JURISDICTION

This Court has exclusive jurisdiction over Petitioner's consolidated appeals, Nos. 20-70877 and 21-1160. The court record confirms briefing is complete and the case is before the merits panel.

Under *Casas-Castrillon v. DHS*, 535 F.3d 942 (9th Cir. 2008), and *Prieto-Romero v. Clark*, 534 F.3d 1053 (9th Cir. 2008), the Ninth Circuit retains jurisdiction to address detention issues where removal proceedings are under appellate review.

This motion properly invokes the Court's equitable and inherent authority under *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418 (2009) and *Leiva-Perez v. Holder*, 640 F.3d 962 (9th Cir. 2011).

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FILING NOTICE — INACCESSIBILITY

Petitioner is currently detained in an ICE detention facility. He has tried over a dozen times to contact the Court Clerk through the phone number (415) 355-8000, but has been unable to get through - presumably due to the detention phone system that requires human authorization from the recipient (eg “press 1 to be connected”) and has no ability to interface with phone trees. He is also completely deprived of internet access, including email - the only computer functionality he is afforded is access to a word processor, and even that is difficult to schedule. Standard protocol for emergency motions includes notifying the Court by phone or email prior to filing, but those mechanisms are foreclosed to Petitioner. He respectfully prays the Court to accept this emergency motion as properly filed, regardless.

PRO SE STATEMENT

Petitioner proceeds **pro se**, without the benefit of counsel. As the Supreme Court held in *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972), pro se pleadings are to be “held to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.” See also *Boag v. MacDougall*, 454 U.S. 364 (1982); *Maty v. Grasselli Chemical Co.*, 303 U.S. 197 (1938); *Platsky v. CIA*, 953 F.2d 26 (2d Cir. 1991) (“Court errs if it

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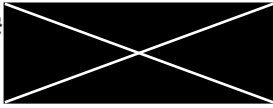
dismisses pro se pleadings without instruction as to how deficiencies might be cured.”). Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court review this filing liberally and focus on the substance of his arguments rather than their form. Proceeding without legal counsel, he has made every effort to present this motion faithfully and in accordance with the rules of this Court.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Petitioner Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry has lived in Washington for 25 years, lawfully and peacefully. He is a decorated veteran whose service in the U.S. Army left him wheelchair-bound and permanently disabled with a 100% VA service-connected disability rating (Exhibits 1, 2, 3). His wife, Melissa, and their two small children—ages 2-1/2 and eleven months—depend on his presence and care.

He was detained on August 21, 2025, at a USCIS naturalization interview, and transferred to the Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma. His ongoing medical treatment was immediately interrupted. His treating physician, Chief Ophthalmologic Surgeon Dr. Jason Lewis of Madigan Army Medical Center, confirms (Ex.4) that Petitioner's thyroid eye disease requires consistent, closely

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monitored Tepezza infusions. Gaps in treatment risk acute orbital inflammation,

pain, swelling, and **irreversible** optic nerve damage.

As the American Thyroid Association explains:

“Thyroid Eye Disease is a progressive autoimmune condition that can cause double vision, eye pain, bulging eyes, and vision loss. Without timely treatment, permanent visual impairment may result.” — *American Thyroid Association, 2024 Clinical Statement on Thyroid Eye Disease.*

Multiple visitors to Petitioner in detention have independently observed visible deterioration: redness, bulging, and pronounced swelling of the eyes. Given the undisputed diagnosis, documented treatment history (Ex’s 5, 6) , and evident physical decline that is fully consistent with and predicted by the known course of his disease, the proper judicial posture is to credit the Petitioner’s sworn reports (Ex. 7) of worsening vision. ICE’s detention facilities cannot supply the specialized diagnostic and infusion equipment necessary to evaluate or treat him. Despite Petitioner submitting over 30 written requests and grievances from detention, they have not taken him for treatment despite their own policy requiring them to do so.

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ICE'S FAILURE TO FOLLOW ITS OWN MEDICAL-CARE POLICY

ICE's current conduct violates its own governing standards. Under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011) and the National Detention Standards (NDS 2025), ICE must provide detainees access to all medically necessary care, including care "urgently required to prevent the loss of life, serious bodily injury or serious illness, or to treat persons who are suffering from painful conditions that could lead to disability or death." ICE's NDS 2025 further mandates that facilities ensure the continuity of care, management of chronic conditions, and coordination of specialty treatment, and that detainees are not charged for medically necessary care. See ICE, *National Detention Standards 2025: Medical Care*, §§ II.A–C (2025), available at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention-standards/2025/nds2025.pdf>.

By denying Petitioner access to prescribed, critically important Tepezza infusions required to prevent blindness, and specialty coordination required for safe administration, ICE is in direct violation of these provisions, disregarding both the explicit duty to prevent disability and the promise of continuity of care. This failure

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to meet its own regulatory obligations further strengthens the conclusion that

Petitioner's continued detention is arbitrary, punitive, and unconstitutional.

LEGAL STANDARD

The standard for release pending decision parallels that for a stay of removal under *Nken*, which considers:

1. Likelihood of success or serious legal questions;
2. Irreparable harm;
3. Balance of equities; and
4. The public interest.

Relief must be “**speedy if it is to be effective.**” *Stack v. Boyle*, 342 U.S. 1, 4 (1951). Delay that renders relief meaningless is a violation of due process.

ARGUMENT

I. The Petition Raises Serious Legal Questions.

Mr. Chaudhry's underlying appeal challenges constitutional and statutory errors — denial of due process, mishandling of filings, and the improper reversal of an

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Immigration Judge's 2018 decision which waived all prior issues and re-authorized his permanent-resident status, after over ten years spent meticulously reviewing the facts of the case. These issues are now before the Ninth Circuit merits panel.

Petitioner's claims are neither frivolous nor dilatory—they concern fundamental constitutional protections owed to every lawful resident - *especially* an honorable, disabled veteran - of this nation, including the guarantees of due process and equal protection under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, and the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

II. Irreparable Harm Is Immediate and Certain.

Every day of continued detention worsens his condition and increases the risk of irreversible blindness. His treating physician's letter, appointment record, and medical summary (Ex's 4, 5, 6) confirm that Tepezza treatment is medically necessary and was ongoing through mid-2025. Two months of missed infusions already place him in critical jeopardy. As *Leiva-Perez* emphasizes, physical deterioration and loss of health constitute irreparable injury where harm is "probable, not merely possible." 640 F.3d at 969. Here, harm is not only probable, it is certain, ongoing, and worsening.

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Opposition may argue evidentiary insufficiency because no qualified

ophthalmologist with specialty equipment can examine him in detention. That argument fails: ICE itself has foreclosed the means of evaluation.

We are not asking this Court to order ICE to transport Petitioner for medical treatment, because his therapy demands close coordination among four specialized disciplines — ophthalmology, endocrinology, infusion medicine, and audiology — and there is no reasonable confidence, to put it mildly, that ICE has either the inclination or operational capacity to manage such a complex regimen. Exhibits 4, 5, 6, and 7 prove diagnosis, course of treatment, and treatment interruption. The Court must not permit a party to manufacture uncertainty by its own denial of medical access.

III. The Balance of Equities Overwhelmingly Favors Release.

The government suffers no prejudice if a wheelchair-bound, 100% disabled veteran continues his case from home, as he has since 9/11 — for almost 25 years. He is not a flight risk; his family, medical providers, and entire life are in Washington State, and he has faithfully attended every court hearing for over two decades.

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Neither is he a danger to the community - rather, dozens of letters from community members including family, friends, veterans, clergy, bipartisan state legislators (all available at <https://www.keepzahidhome.org/endorsements>), and two *sitting U.S. Senators* (Ex.10) attest to his peaceful, contributive presence in the community. Statements by six sitting State Legislators (Ex.11) made immediately after his detention further confirm the trust and high esteem he is held in, as does the letter signed by eighteen different nonprofit organizations that collectively serve hundreds of thousands of people across Washington State, as do the thousands of petition signatures collected calling for his release (Ex.12). Petitioner's presence at home with his family and community is a *desired good* - the furthest thing possible from a danger.

By contrast, continued detention inflicts upon this disabled veteran *catastrophic and irreparable harm*—familial (Ex. 9), psychological, and physical.

Moreover, maintaining detention under these conditions constitutes **cruel and unusual punishment**. Mr. Chaudhry has committed no crime in the United States. Civil immigration detention is **not punitive** and cannot justly entail such irreversible suffering. As the Supreme Court has emphasized, liberty deprivation in

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civil proceedings must be narrowly tailored and humane, reflecting the principle

articulated in *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001), where the Court held that immigration detention must bear a reasonable relation to its purpose and cease when it becomes punitive or excessive.

Both his wife—Melissa Chaudhry, a former candidate for the United States Congress—and his father-in-law, Dr. Eric Rasmussen, a retired U.S. Navy Commander with an active security clearance—have formally offered to guarantee him if released (Ex’s 8, 9). Both possess impeccable records of public service and have committed to ensuring his full compliance with all conditions of release, personally supervising his medical care and legal appearances.

IV. The Public Interest Supports Immediate Release.

Public interest demands that the United States honor its commitments to those who have served and protect the fundamental values of fairness, human dignity, and fiscal responsibility. Beyond honoring veterans, the public interest is served by

1. Upholding the rule of law,
2. Maintaining public trust in humane governance, and

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3. Avoiding needless taxpayer expense.

Detaining a permanently disabled veteran under conditions that cause such suffering and medical deterioration contravenes not only national ideals but also the public's interest in lawful, ethical, and efficient use of government resources.

By sharp coincidence, this motion is filed during Veterans Day week, underscoring the nation's solemn promise—across administrations and parties—to care for those who bore the cost of its defense. To deny that duty erodes public confidence in our institutions and signals disregard for the sacrifices that safeguard our freedoms.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared: “Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them.”

President Barack Obama reminded us: “As long as we have veterans, we must serve them as well as they served us.”

President Joe Biden reaffirmed: “We have a sacred obligation to equip those we send into harm's way and to care for them and their families when they return.”

Beyond these moral imperatives, the broader public interest supports release because:

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- It preserves confidence in the judiciary's capacity to prevent constitutional violations and irreparable harm.
- It prevents further unnecessary government expenditure—avoiding both the extreme medical costs ICE would incur and the liability arising from preventable blindness.
- It demonstrates that civil detention will not be used punitively or unfairly against law-abiding residents - especially veterans.

To continue to detain a disabled veteran in conditions leading to irreversible blindness and family separation is to betray these pledges and to undermine the very public values the law exists to protect. If the honorable service of one disabled veteran can be so betrayed, it's a desecration to the service of all. The public interest lies squarely in release, not continued confinement.

WHY THIS MOTION HAS NOT BEEN FILED SOONER

For over two months, staff and guards at NWIPC have been telling Petitioner in response to his over 30 written — and countless verbal — requests, that they'll

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take him for his treatments “any day now.” No constructive action has been taken.

ICE is well aware that Petitioner has missed:

- Endocrinology appointments - critical to address the underlying thyroid disease;
- A key follow-up ophthalmology appointment on October 6, 2025;
- Multiple Tepezza treatments; and
- The coordinated specialty care required for safe administration.

Petitioner has thus lost faith in ICE’s willingness or ability to supply the medical treatment he needs to prevent permanent blindness and preserve his ability to see his wife and children's faces.

Then, only in the past ten days has Petitioner learned that his pending motion to reopen custody redetermination—asking for a proper bond hearing in immigration court evaluating only flight risk and danger under *Rodriguez-Vazquez v. Bostock*, W.D. Wash. 2025—has been denied. The denial was issued by the same IJ (T. Scala) who previously claimed “no jurisdiction” to release him.

Petitioner’s bond appeal from the initial erroneous hearing to the BIA is pending, but is likely to take six months or more to decide — a delay explicitly recognized

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in *Rodriguez Vazquez v. Bostock*, No. 2:25-cv-00211 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 20, 2025),

where the complaint established that “bond appeals routinely take six months or longer to resolve, by which time the person is often deported, released, or has abandoned their claim.” The court filings in that class action describe a dedicated “Bond Appeal Class” seeking declaratory relief to compel BIA decisions within 60 days, underscoring the systemic and unjust delay currently affecting detainees.

Filing a habeas petition would be duplicative and contrary to judicial economy.

Exclusive jurisdiction over challenges to final removal orders and related detention lies with the Courts of Appeals. Therefore, the appropriate and lawful forum for Petitioner’s request for custody relief is this Court.

Petitioner files this motion immediately upon exhausting all other available remedies and clarifying these circumstances. He does so in good faith and in full awareness of the urgency of his condition. Every other possible procedural path has been pursued, foreclosed to him, or both. Accordingly, he now respectfully prays this Court for immediate relief, as the only tribunal capable of preventing irreparable harm and safeguarding his constitutional rights.

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WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF RELIEF IS NOT GRANTED

Each additional week without treatment increases the likelihood of permanent blindness. Compounding the risk, the historic federal shutdown halted the work of government attorneys, and Court clerks have advised that the Panel's decision on his case may be delayed further. Even when a ruling issues, release is not guaranteed; detainees regularly experience weeks or months of bureaucratic delay after court rulings before actual release or removal from the detention facility. This uncertainty multiplies the risk of irreparable harm.

Continued detention under these conditions—denying vital medical care, inflicting blindness, and separating a disabled veteran from his wife and infants—would not only violate the Fifth Amendment's due process guarantee but amount to **cruel and unusual punishment** when no underlying crime has been committed.

The Constitution forbids such treatment, for it violates not only the Fifth Amendment's protection of due process and substantive liberty, but also the Eighth Amendment's command that no person—whether in criminal or civil custody—be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment. This Court has long recognized that the public interest in upholding these constitutional protections extends beyond the

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individual case: preventing unlawful, inhumane detention serves the collective integrity of the judicial system and the constitutional order itself.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, and under the standards set forth in *Nken*, *Leiva-Perez*, and *Stack*, Petitioner respectfully requests immediate release pending the decision on his underlying appeal. The equities, the law, and the moral conscience of this nation require no less.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Petitioner respectfully prays that this Court:

1. Order his immediate release from ICE custody on his own recognizance pending decision, so that he may receive urgent, necessary medical treatment; and
2. Grant such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry

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Northwest ICE Processing Center

1623 E. J St.

Tacoma, WA 98421

November 12, 2025

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases

- *Stack v. Boyle*, 342 U.S. 1 (1951)
- *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418 (2009)
- *Leiva-Perez v. Holder*, 640 F.3d 962 (9th Cir. 2011)
- *Casas-Castrillon v. Department of Homeland Security*, 535 F.3d 942 (9th Cir. 2008)
- *Prieto-Romero v. Clark*, 534 F.3d 1053 (9th Cir. 2008)
- *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678 (2001)
- *Rodriguez Vazquez v. Bostock*, No. 2:25-cv-00211 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 20, 2025)

Statutes and Regulations

- U.S. Constitution, amendments V, VIII, and XIV
- Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011)
- National Detention Standards (NDS 2025) §§ II.A–C

Other Authorities

- American Thyroid Association, *2024 Clinical Statement on Thyroid Eye Disease*
- ICE, *National Detention Standards 2025: Medical Care (2025)*, <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/detention-standards/2025/nds2025.pdf>

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Exhibits:

1. Petitioner's Military ID and Social Security Card
2. Petitioner's DD214 Showing "Honorable" Character of Service
3. Petitioner's VA 100% disability letter
4. Letter from Dr. Jason Lewis, Petitioner's Treating Physician
5. List of Petitioner's Medical Appointments: 2024-2025
6. Medical Summary for Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry
7. Petitioner's Affidavit
8. Sponsor Letter: Dr. Eric Rasmussen, MD, MDM, FACP
9. Sponsor Letter: Melissa Chaudhry
10. Letters of Support from Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell
11. Statements of Support from State Legislators, Bipartisan
12. Letter of Support from Organizations; Petition Signatures

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Exhibit 8:

Sponsor Letter: Dr. Eric Rasmussen, MD, MDM, FACP

ERIC RASMUSSEN, MD, MDM, FACP
4407 BRIGGS DR. SE, OLYMPIA, WA 98501
360-621-3592 RASMLE@UW.EDU



13 November 2025

Re: Emergency Motion for Release Pending Decision for M. Zahid Chaudhry A#




To Whom It May Concern:

I respectfully submit this letter as the father-in-law of **M. Zahid Chaudhry**, who is currently detained by ICE following his citizenship interview in Tukwila, Washington. I ask that the Court grant his release on bond, and I formally offer to act as his Sponsor.

Mr. Chaudhry is an honorably discharged U.S. Army veteran who sustained service-connected injuries and is now permanently wheelchair-bound. The Department of Veterans Affairs has certified him as 100% service-connected disabled and I will attach both his DD214 and a copy of his VA disability certification in an Addendum. He has resided in Washington State for over 25 years, where he is married to my daughter, Melissa, and together they are raising their two young children,  (age 2 1/2) and  (11 months). His entire family, including myself and my wife, are U.S. citizens. He has deep, extensive, and permanent roots in our community and, particularly since he depends on a wheelchair due to service-connected injuries, Zahid poses no risk of flight.

If released, I will take full responsibility for his compliance with all conditions of bond and the continuation of his immigration proceedings. Specifically:

1. I will visit him at his family's home daily. My wife and I reside less than fifteen minutes from his customary residence at 
2. I will personally ensure he attends every immigration court hearing, ICE check-in, and appointment as required.

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ERIC RASMUSSEN, MD, MDM, FACP
4407 BRIGGS DR. SE, OLYMPIA, WA 98501
360-621-3592 RASMLE@UW.EDU

3. I will provide and arrange transportation to guarantee his presence, regardless of his disability or mobility challenges.

4. I will ensure he receives appropriate medical care and support while his case proceeds.

5. I will ensure he remains financially stable during this process. I hold multiple compensated positions, and I will add my 2024 tax return cover sheet as a further attachment.

Mr. Chaudhry represents the very best of American values: he volunteered to serve this nation in uniform, accepted the risks of military service, and now bears the lifelong consequences of his sacrifice. Detention is already manifestly unjust, but to continue to detain him without adequate treatment as his Thyroid Eye Disease is progressing, leading inexorably to irreversible blindness if left unaddressed, is an affront to the commitments our country makes to its veterans. His treatment is well-established at Madigan Army Medical Center, thirty minutes from my home and twenty minutes from his. His honorable service, combined with his medical condition and family ties, make clear that he is neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community. He should be allowed to access his critical medical care from home while his case reaches resolution with the Court.

As for myself, I am a retired U.S. Navy physician with 25 years of active-duty service, including six combat deployments to three wars. I am a Stanford-trained and board-certified internist on the faculty of the Schools of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Washington, and I hold an additional European Master's degree in Disaster Medicine from the UN-WHO affiliate in Milan, Italy. I am a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, and I hold an active security clearance for my work with the US Office of Naval Research. I am financially stable, a long-standing resident of Washington State, and fully prepared to accept the responsibilities of sponsorship. I will ensure, without question, that Mr. Chaudhry fulfills all obligations placed upon him by this Court.

Attached are documents verifying my citizenship and financial stability.

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ERIC RASMUSSEN, MD, MDM, FACP
4407 BRIGGS DR. SE, OLYMPIA, WA 98501
360-621-3592 RASMUCE@UW.EDU

For all these reasons, I respectfully urge the Court to release Mr. Chaudhry. Release to my sponsorship will allow Mr. Chaudhry to continue his medical treatment, support his wife and child, and further his case, while maintaining the integrity of the legal process. He has earned that opportunity by his service, his sacrifice, and his demonstrated commitment to this nation.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Respectfully,

Eric Rasmussen, MD, MDM, FACP

CEO, Infinitum Humanitarian Systems

and

Managing Director, Applied Hope Foundation

and

Affiliate Associate Professor of Medicine

Schools of Medicine and Public Health

University of Washington

Seattle

and

Commander, Medical Corps, US Navy (Ret)

Cell: 360-621-3592

Email: RasmussenE@IHS-i.com

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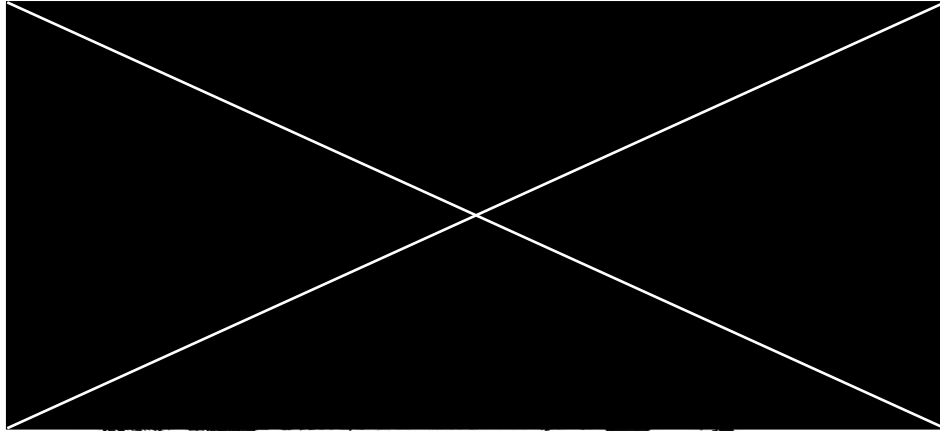


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Exhibit 9:


Sponsor Letter: Melissa Chaudhry



I, Melissa Chaudhry, declare as follows:

8-28-25

1. Relationship and Family Ties.

I am the lawful wife of Respondent, Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry (A# ) , and we have been married since 2022. We live together in Thurston County, Washington, with our two U.S. citizen children, ages two years and eight months. Zahid is a devoted husband and father, and his absence is an enormous hardship on our family.

2. Bond Sponsorship.

I will serve as an additional bond sponsor to ensure Zahid's compliance with all immigration court requirements. I have driven and accompanied him to every hearing, medical appointment, and official proceeding over the course of our marriage, and I will continue to do so. If he is released, Zahid will continue to live with me and our children at our residence in Thurston County. I will personally ensure that he attends all future immigration court hearings and complies fully with any conditions set by the Court.

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3. Hardship on the Family.

Since Zahid was taken into custody, our household has lost a primary caregiver and the emotional anchor of our family. Our two-year-old daughter asks for her father with heartbreaking bewilderment. She knows her Baba was taken from us and that I am doing everything I can, together with the people who love us, to bring him home. At bedtime she has cried for him, even crying herself to sleep one night, and she continues to ask for him daily. The emotional impact on her is profound at this tender age. Our eight-month-old son also depends deeply on his father's presence. The forced separation is harming both children in ways that no amount of reassurance can erase.

4. Community Support.

Our family is deeply rooted in Washington State. Zahid has lived here peacefully for more than 25 years, and we have overwhelming community support. More than 80 letters from friends, clergy, elected officials, and fellow veterans are on file attesting to Zahid's integrity, reliability, and good character, plus those included here. Our community stands ready to support him, and I will make sure he fulfills all obligations to the Court.

5. No Flight Risk.

Our family and community life anchor my husband firmly in Washington State. We have grown deep and literal roots here, cultivating an orchard, tending citrus trees, and building our home and community together. We share an ordinary and stable life — working on cars, raising our two young

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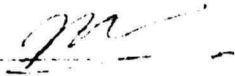
children, and caring for our household. What Zahid wants most is to return home to that ordinary life of service and family: spending time with his wife and children, helping to raise them, and supporting the community where he has lived for more than 25 years. These enduring ties make clear that he has no incentive to flee and every reason to remain present for all future proceedings.

6. Conclusion.

Zahid is my husband, the father of our two children, and a disabled Army veteran who has given everything to serve this country. He has never broken any U.S. law and has always complied with immigration court proceedings. He is not a flight risk, and he poses no danger to the community. His detention is causing irreparable harm to our children, who need their father's presence, love, and care during these formative years. The best interests of our children — and the interests of justice — demand his release so that he can return home to his family while his case proceeds.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 28th day of August, 2025, at Olympia, Washington.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Melissa Chaudhry'.

Melissa Chaudhry
U.S. Citizen Wife of Respondent



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Exhibit 10:

Letters of Support from Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell

MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
FINANCE
INDIAN AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4706

May 22, 2009

USCIS Seattle District Office
12500 Tukwila International Blvd
Tukwila, Washington 98168

RE: Muhammad Chaudhry
N-400 Application

To Whom It May Concern:

Our constituents, Ann and Muhammad Chaudhry, have contacted our offices for assistance with an issue within your jurisdiction. Mr. Chaudhry has been attempting to gain United States citizenship for the last few years, and as you know, has run into significant delays. We have been informed that Mr. Chaudhry is of strong moral character and portrays altruistic tendencies that have made him an asset to his community, friends, and family. His volunteer work with the American Red Cross and the Yakima Police Department, as well as his service in the United States Army has allowed him to make substantive contributions to both his state and the country he calls home. While we understand the need for a thorough and complete review of every citizenship case, we ask that he receive all consideration within your authority so that he may soon reach a resolution on his case.

If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Yim at Stephen_Yim@cantwell.senate.gov or Danielle Joesten at Danielle_Joesten@murray.senate.gov.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

MC: sy

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- EBENET
3000 15th Avenue
Suite 605
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 389-6114
FAX: (425) 383-6857
- BICHLAPUD
825 Jackson Avenue
Suite 204/204A
Buckland, WA 98222
(509) 948-9188
Fax: (509) 948-9887
- SEATTLE
JACOBSON FEDERAL BUILDING
815 2nd Avenue, Suite 2200
SEATTLE, WA 98104-1023
(206) 226-9400
TOLL FREE: 1-800-888-7288
Fax: (206) 226-9404
- SPOKANE
U.S. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE
WEST 520 Broadway, Suite 807
SPOKANE, WA 99201
(509) 323-2307
FAX: (509) 333-2547
- TACOMA
850 PACIFIC AVENUE
SUITE 818
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 572-2281
FAX: (253) 572-0879
- VANCOUVER
MARKHAM HOUSE
1312 DUNCAN'S ROW
FIRST FLOOR
VANCOUVER, WA 98661
(206) 889-7009
Fax: (206) 889-7044
- WASHINGTON, DC
511 OREGON SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
Washington, DC 20540-4706
(202) 224-3441
FAX: (202) 224-8114

Web: <http://cantwell.senate.gov>
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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Cases: 21-1160 & 20-70877

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Exhibit 11:

Statements of Support from State Legislators, Bipartisan

Condensed Excerpts from **State Legislators' Speeches at**

"Free Zahid Now" Rally

Held August 24, 2025, Three Days After Plaintiff's Detainment

Raw transcripts available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>

Rep. Chris Stearns, LD-47

"If I don't stand up and fight for Zahid, then what am I doing here? This is why we are elected—to risk something. President Kennedy said this nation will never be fully free until all of its people are free. And there are people not free here. That is why I stand here: to fight for their freedom."

Rep. Mia Gregerson, LD-33

"When families are torn apart, when this authoritarian behavior happens—this is fascism—we must say no. We must be loud, proud, and protect those who need us now more than ever. Tell our children that we will not let them be torn from their families."

Rep. Shaun Scott, LD-37

"A society that has divested from policing and prisons would have had no way of obtaining somebody like Zahid, no place to keep him behind bars. We stand in

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solidarity, and we know this movement will bring Zahid home, and bring everybody home who's been illegally detained.”

Sen. T’wina Nobles, LD-28

“To detain someone who has already sacrificed so much for this country is completely inhumane. In Washington State, we are not backing down. Detention is not the answer. Deportation is not the answer. The answer is freedom, compassion, and justice.”

Sen. Yasmin Trudeau, LD-27

“This place behind us is a stain on our city, our state, and our nation. Zahid served our country, and Melissa did one of the scariest things possible—she ran for Federal office calling for a free Palestine with her whole chest. Then Zahid goes to a naturalization interview, follows the rules, and is abducted by ICE. Humans are not pawns. Freedom is the word they weaponize against us, but freedom is what we demand.”

Sen. Rebecca Saldaña, LD-37

“Immigration is a human right. Zahid has always shown up for others with honor and integrity. To detain a decorated veteran and father like him demeans our democracy. People like me with titles can’t make change without movements like this. We need more activists inside, outside, and all around to ensure our constitution has value and is lived in our lives.”

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Exhibit 12:

Letters of Support from Organizations

Letter of Support for Plaintiff from Washington Community Alliance

WCA represents over 75 organizations in Washington State.

Each named organization listed on this letter serves hundreds or thousands of people (or more) with care, dignity, and determination.



**Washington
Community
Alliance . .**

August 27, 2025

To whom it may concern,

We, Washington Community Alliance, a network of over 75 organizations across Washington State, are calling for the release of Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry, or just "Zahid".

Zahid has been a faithful servant of communities across Washington, this country, and the constitution. Having served this nation and its people for over two decades, Zahid has become a well known and respected leader. Zahid has worked to shelter abused women and children, counseled suicidal veterans, and volunteered as a paramedic and firefighter. To Zahid, being dedicated to the community means everything. He has served on boards of nonprofits dedicated to affordable housing, environmental justice, disability rights, and advocated for communities of color. He is a decorated, disabled, honored Army veteran, now in a wheelchair due to service-related injuries, being held without accommodations and without reason. This story is more than just Zahid, this is a reflection of the American moral compass. If this can happen to Zahid, this can happen to anyone. The community mourns the taking of Zahid under the guise of a regularly scheduled immigration check in.

The conditions of his detention have been reported as "being kept alone, without accommodations for his disability, without proper medical care, and almost completely without communication".

Words cannot fully express the impact that Zahid has had on communities everywhere. Zahid is a husband and a father to two young children who are being harmed by the trauma of not having their father. Returning Zahid to his family would pose no threat to national security. Nor is he a flight risk. Zahid deserves to go home to see his family, who have been forced to go through such cruel times.

We again, are calling for his release to his family.

Respectfully,

Washington Community Alliance
CAIR-WA
Wasal
ODK Islamic Center
Southwest Washington Equity Coalition,
Love, and Justice Alliance

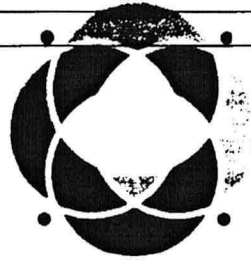
Washington Bus
Washington West African Center
Northwest Kenyan Community Association
Kent Black Action Commission
Northwest Community
Islamic Center of Renton

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Washington Community Alliance

Latino Education Training Institute
CAFE: The Community for the
Advancement of Family Education
Working Families Party
350 Seattle
El Centro de la Raza

change.org My petitions Membership Search Start a petition

Demand DHS free a disabled veteran and father from Ice custody.




3,480
Verified signatures

Take the next step!

change.org My petitions Membership Search Start a petition

Tell GEO Group: Provide Urgent Medical Treatment to Zahid Chaudhry



500
Verified signatures

Let's get to 1000 signatures!

Petitions with 1,000+ supporters are 5x more likely to win!

Take the next step!

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Cases: 21-1160 & 20-70877

Chaudhry v. Bondi

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(g)(1), I certify that this motion complies with the type-volume limitation of Circuit Rule 27-1(d) because:

- This document contains 4372 words.
- The document has been prepared in 14-point proportionally spaced font (e.g., Times New Roman) in compliance with Rule 32(a)(5)–(6).
- The motion and all accompanying attachments comply with the formatting requirements of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure and the Ninth Circuit Rules.

Executed on November 13, 2025.

/s/ Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry

Petitioner, pro se



Northwest ICE Processing Center

1623 E. J St,

Tacoma, Washington 98421



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on November 13, 2025, I filed the foregoing Emergency Motion for Release Pending Decision Under Circuit Rule 27-3, along with all supporting documents, with the Clerk of the Court for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit by FedEx mail.


A true and correct copy has been served by U.S. Mail upon Respondent's counsel at the following address:

Alanna T. Duong
Office of Immigration Litigation – Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 878
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044

Executed on November 13, 2025.

/s/ Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry

Petitioner, pro se



Northwest ICE Processing Center
1623 E. J St,
Tacoma, Washington 98421