UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MCALLEN DIVISION

JOSE ANTONIO SANCHEZ (A[redacted])	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	Case No.
KRISTI NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; MARY DE ANDA-YBARRA) Field Office Director, El Paso Field Office, Immigration and Customs Enforcement,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

PETITIONER'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS AND COMPLAINT FOR EMERGENCY INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

The Petitioner, JOSE ANTONIO SANCHEZ, by and through his own and proper person and through his attorneys, KRIEZELMAN BURTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC, files this reply memorandum to the government's response filed on December 10, 2025, and in support thereof, states as follows:

A. Petitioner Does Not Challenge His Ongoing Removal Proceedings and 8 U.S.C. § 1252 does not deprive this Court of jurisdiction

As a threshold matter, this Court is not deprived of jurisdiction by 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)(9) and (g) as Petitioner's claims do not challenge any decision to commence proceedings,[1] adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders. Section 1252(b)(9) provides:

> Judicial review of all questions of law and fact, including interpretation and application of constitutional and statutory provisions, *arising from any action taken or proceeding brought to remove an alien from the United States* under this subchapter shall be available only in judicial review of a final order under this section. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no court shall have

[1] Respondents incorrectly noted in its response that the hearing scheduled on February 11, 2026, is Petitioner's final individual hearing. This is incorrect. The hearing is Petitioner's second master calendar hearing before Judge Jessica Miles. https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/en/caseInformation/ (last accessed December 16, 2025).

> jurisdiction, by habeas corpus under section 2241 of title 28 or any other habeas corpus provision, by section 1361 or 1651 of such title, or by any other provision of law (statutory or nonstatutory), to review such an order or such questions of law or fact.

8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)(9) (emphasis added).

The Supreme Court's decision in *Jennings v. Rodriguez* is instructive here and supports Petitioner's position that this Court does have jurisdiction and that Section 1252(b)(9) does not present a jurisdictional bar. The Supreme Court determined that the "arising from" language of Section 1252(b)(9) should not be interpreted so expansively as to include any action that technically follows the commencement of removal proceedings, because that would bar judicial review of questions of law and fact that are unrelated to the removal proceedings until a final order of removal was issued. *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 292-95 (2018). Petitioner, like the class in *Jennings*, "are not asking for review of an order of removal, they are not challenging the decision to detain them in the first place or to seek removal; and they are not even challenging any part of the process by which their removability will be determined." *Id.* at 294-95. Section 1252(g) provides:

> Except as provided in this section and notwithstanding any other provision of law (statutory or nonstatutory), including section 2241 of title 28, or any other habeas corpus provision, and sections 1361 and 1651 of such title, no court shall have jurisdiction to hear any cause or claim by or on behalf of any alien *arising from the decision or action by the Attorney General to commence proceedings, adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders against any alien under this chapter.*

8 U.S.C. § 1252(g) (emphasis added).

The Supreme Court's decision in *Jennings* assessed Section 1252(g). The *Jennings* court writes that "[w]e did not interpret [section 1252(g)] to sweep in any claim that can technically be said to 'arise from' the three listed actions of the Attorney General. Instead, we read the

language to refer to just those three specific actions themselves." *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 294 (citing *Reno v. Am.-Arab Anti-Discrimination Comm.*, 525 U.S. 471, 482 (1999)).

An immigration judge's (IJ) review of a bond determination is a distinct proceeding from an alien's underlying removal proceeding. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(d). It is "clear bond hearings are separate and apart from deportation proceedings." *Gornicka v. INS*, 681 F.2d 501, 505 (7th Cir. 1982). Here, Petitioner is seeking review of his unlawful detention, as he is unable to seek a bond hearing on the merits in front of the Immigration Court as a result of the Board of Immigration Appeals' decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025). In sum, Petitioner is not challenging a removal order or anything else listed in Section 1252(b)(9) and (g) which would strip this court of jurisdiction.

Accordingly, this Court has jurisdiction over Petitioner's matter.

B. Exhaustion is not required and should be excused as seeking an appeal from a bond redetermination before the Board of Immigration Appeals in the first instance would be futile.

Exhaustion is not required, as suggested by Respondents, and requesting the Board of Immigration Appeals to review the order from the Immigration Judge denying bond on the sole basis of no jurisdiction would be futile at this juncture. The Immigration and Nationality Act mandates exhaustion in order to challenge "final order[s] of removal." 8 U.S.C. § 1252(d)(1). However, this provision does not cover challenges to preliminary custody or bond determinations, which are quite distinct from "final order[s] of removal." *See Gornicka v. INS*, 681 F.2d 501, 505 (7th Cir. 1982). ("[I]t is clear bond hearings are separate and apart from deportations hearings.... A bond determination is not a final order of deportation ... and does not effect [sic] the deportation proceeding.").

Congress does require exhaustion for certain types of habeas petitions, but not for those petitions, such as Petitioner's, brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. *See James v. Walsh*, 308 F.3d 162, 167 (2d Cir. 2002) ("Section 2254(b)(1) requires state prisoners to exhaust all available state court remedies before filing a Section 2254 petition, whereas Section 2241 contains no such exhaustion requirement.").

Several Texas District Courts, specifically, have held that a due process challenge generally does not require exhaustion since the BIA lacks authority to review constitutional challenges. *See Rodriguez Cortina v. De Anda-Ybarra*, Case No. 3:25-cv-00523 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 18, 2025); *Vasquez Chinchilla v. De Anda-Ybarra*, Case No. 3:25-cv-00548 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 24 2025).

Even so, the three-factor test applied by courts in this Circuit also weighs against requiring exhaustion. Courts may require prudential exhaustion when:

> (1) agency expertise makes agency consideration necessary to generate a proper record and reach a proper decision;
> (2) relaxation of the requirement would encourage the deliberate bypass of the administrative scheme; and
> (3) administrative review is likely to allow the agency to correct its own mistakes and to preclude the need for judicial review.

See Shweika v. Dep't of Homeland Sec., No. 1:06-cv-11781, 2015 WL 6541689, at *12 (E.D. Mich. Oct. 29, 2015). These factors all work in Petitioner's favor. First, the issues raised in Petitioner's case are purely legal in nature and do not require the agency to develop the record. Second, because Petitioner's petition includes a due process claim, the administrative scheme (appeal to the BIA) is futile since, the BIA lacks authority to review constitutional claims. Lastly, while Respondents argue in their reply that "[i]n an appeal to the BIA, Petitioner may seek a new bond hearing and request release," administrative review is not likely to change Respondents' position that Section 1225(b)(2)(A) applies in this case, adding to the futility argument.

Additionally, requiring exhaustion would be futile due to the Board of Immigration Appeal's September 5th decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025), which proclaimed for the first time that any person who crossed the border unlawfully and is later taken into immigration detention is no longer eligible for release on bond. The Board's decision, in contravention of decades of immigration law, precedent by the Supreme Court, and Executive Office of Immigration Review policies and procedures, takes a new reading of INA § 235(b)(2), 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2), which requires mandatory detention of "Applicants for Admission," to include those present in the United States without having been inspected and admitted and who are later apprehended.

Prior to the Board's decision, noncitizens present in the United States without having been inspected and admitted and who are later apprehended are subject to detention under INA § 236(a), 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). Noncitizens detained under this section are not subject to mandatory detention and may be released on bond or on their own recognizance. Therefore, requiring Petitioner to appeal a bond redetermination with the Board of Immigration Appeals in the first instance would be futile as the bond appeal would undoubtedly be denied in light of *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*. It would prejudice Petitioner by prolonging his detention to request an appeal to a bond that would simply be denied solely based on no jurisdiction.

Yet even if this Court were to agree that prudential exhaustion should apply, waiver of the exhaustion requirement is warranted here because Petitioner is likely to experience irreparable harm if he is unable to seek habeas relief until the BIA decides an appeal on the denied bond, which the Immigration Judge denied solely based on lack of jurisdiction. *See also Sampiao v. Hyde, et al.* 1:25-cv-11981-JEK, at *11-12 (D. Mass. Sept. 9, 2025); *Romero v. Hyde*, No. 25-cv-11631-BEM, 2025 WL 2403827, at *7 (D. Mass. Aug. 19, 2025) (finding that

loss of liberty is a form of irreparable harm and citing *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, 542 U.S. 507, 529 (2004); *Hilton v. Braunskill*, 481 U.S. 770, 777 (1987)). Waiver is appropriate when the interests of the individual weigh heavily against requiring administrative exhaustion, or exhaustion would be futile and unable to afford the petitioner the relief he seeks. *See McCarthy v. Madigan*, 503 U.S. 140, 144 (1992) (noting that "Where Congress specifically mandates, exhaustion is required [...] but where Congress has not clearly required exhaustion, sound judicial discretion governs.") The Immigration and Nationality Act "mandates exhaustion in order to challenge final orders of removal ... [but not for] challenges to preliminary custody or bond determinations." *Gonzalez v. O'Connell*, 355 F.3d 1010, 1016 (7th Cir. 2004) (citations omitted). Thus, exhaustion in this case is subject to the Court's discretion. *See Miguel v. Noem*, 2025 WL 2976480 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 21, 2025).

The average processing time for bond appeals exceeded 200 days (more than 6 months) in 2024. *Rodriguez v. Bostock*, 779 F. Supp. 3d 1239, 1248 (W.D. Wash. 2025). There is no requirement for the BIA to act promptly or decide the appeal quicker than any other case. If the BIA were to act promptly, it would be unlikely to decide Petitioner's appeal anytime soon, and if it processes the appeal at the same rate as last year's appeals, the appeal may not be resolved until spring 2026. As such, Petitioner is likely to endure several additional months of detention. Such a prolonged loss of liberty would, in these circumstances, constitute irreparable harm. *Bois v. Marsh*, 801 F.2d 462, 468 (D.C. Cir. 1986).

Additionally, requiring Petitioner to wait six months in detention to reach a decision on whether he can be released on bond would be futile. He has been in detention for close to two months, is married to a U.S. citizen and has three U.S. citizen young children, one with severe autism, that need their father back. *See* Dkt. 1 at 1. As such, exhaustion would not effectively

afford him the relief he seeks, given that a removal determination would likely come before the BIA's determination of whether a bond is appropriate in this case.

Therefore, given the constitutional claims raised by Petitioner, this Court should find that exhaustion is not required according to the Sixth Circuit standards. If it does find the exhaustion applies, then the Court should waive exhaustion since it would be futile and would not provide Petitioner with the relief he requests in a timely manner. *Gonzalez v. O'Connell*, 355 F.3d 1010, 1016 (7th Cir. 2004); *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*, No. 2:25-CV-12486, 2025 WL 2496379, at *5 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 29, 2025).

C. Petitioner is detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226 and not under 8 U.S.C. § 1225.

By way of review, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2), INA § 235(b)(2), requires mandatory detention of "Applicants for Admission." Conversely, noncitizens detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), INA § 236(a), are not subject to mandatory detention and may be released on bond or on their own recognizance. The Board of Immigration Appeals' decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025), determined for the first time that any person who crossed the border unlawfully and is later taken into immigration detention is subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) and therefore subject to mandatory detention and no longer eligible for release on bond. The decision strips the immigration judge's authority to hear a bond request for any noncitizen present in the United States without having been inspected and admitted and who are later apprehended by DHS.

Respondents argue in their response that Petitioner is properly detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) and not under 8 U.S.C. § 1226. This argument fails for several reasons.

First, district courts across the country have unanimously rejected *Matter of Yajure Hurtado's* new interpretation that those who entered unlawfully and are later apprehended are

now subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). The following cases are an overall sample of recent Fifth Circuit cases that have all disagreed with Respondents' interpretation and have subsequently granted relief to habeas petitioners. Prior to and since the decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, other judges within the district courts of the Fifth Circuit, have similarly rejected Respondents' interpretation and have subsequently granted relief to habeas petitioners. *See Espinoza Andres v. Noem*, No. CV H-25-5128, 2025 WL 3458893 (S.D. Tex. Dec. 2, 2025); *Tinoco Pineda v. Noem*, No. SA-25-CA-01518-XR, 2025 WL 3471418 (W.D. Tex. Dec. 2, 2025); *Galmadez Martinez v. Noem*, No. SA-25-CV-01373-JKP, 2025 WL 3471575 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 26, 2025); *Granados v. Noem*, No. SA-25-CA-01464-XR, 2025 WL 3296314 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 26, 2025); *Morales Aguilar v. Bondi*, No. 5:25-CV-01453-JKP, 2025 WL 3471417 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 26, 2025); *Coulibaly v. Thompson*, No. 5:25-CV-1539-JKP, 2025 WL 3471573 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 25, 2025); *Guzman Tovar v. Noem*, No. 5:25-CV-1509-JKP, 2025 WL 3471416 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 25, 2025); *Aguinaga Trujillo v. Noem*, No. 5:25-CV-1266-JKP, 2025 WL 3471572 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 24, 2025); *Martinez Orellana v. Noem*, No. 5:25-CV-1028-JKP, 2025 WL 3471569 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 24, 2025); *Miralrio Gonzalez v. Ortega*, No. 5:25-CV-1156-JKP, 2025 WL 3471571 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 24, 2025); *Vasquez Chinchilla v. De Anda-Ybarra*, No. EP-25-CV-00548-DB, 2025 WL 3268459 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 24, 2025); *Penuela Carlos v. Bondi*, No. 9:25-CV-00249-MJT-ZJH, 2025 WL 3252561 (E.D. Tex. Nov. 21, 2025); *Cruz Zafra v. Noem*, No. EP-25-CV-00541-DB, 2025 WL 3239526 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 20, 2025); *Orellana Cantarero v. Bondi*, No. 9:25-CV-00250-MJT-ZJH, 2025 WL 3252402 (E.D. Tex. Nov. 20, 2025); *Leon Hernandez v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-1384 SEC P, 2025 WL 3217037 (W.D. La. Nov. 18, 2025); *Rodriguez Cortina v. Anda-Ybarra*, No. EP-25-CV-00523-DB, 2025 WL 3218682 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 18, 2025); *Cruz Gutierrez v. Thompson*, No. 4:25-4695, 2025 WL

3187521 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 14, 2025); *Trejo v. Warden of ERO El Paso E. Montana*, No. EP-25-CV-401-KC, 2025 WL 2992187 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 24, 2025); *Martinez v. Trump*, No. CV 25-1445 SEC P, 2025 WL 3124847 (W.D. La. Oct. 22, 2025); *Hernandez-Fernandez v. Lyons*, No. 5:25-CV-00773-JKP, 2025 WL 2976923 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 21, 2025); *Vieira v. De Anda-Ybarra*, No. EP-25-CV-00432-DB, 2025 WL 2937880 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 16, 2025); *Covarrubias v. Vergara*, No. 5:25-CV-112, 2025 WL 2950097 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 8, 2025); *Buenrostro-Mendez v. Bondi*, No. CV H-25-3726, 2025 WL 2886346 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 7, 2025); *Santiago v. Noem*, No. EP-25-CV-361-KC, 2025 WL 2792588 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 2, 2025); *Lopez-Arevelo v. Ripa*, No. EP-25-CV-337-KC, 2025 WL 2691828 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 22, 2025); *Lopez Santos v. Noem*, No. 3:25-CV-01193, 2025 WL 2642278 (W.D. La. Sept. 11, 2025); *Martinez v. Noem*, No. 5:25-CV-01007-JKP, 2025 WL 2598379 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 8, 2025); *Kostak v. Trump*, No. CV 3:25-1093, 2025 WL 2472136 (W.D. La. Aug. 27, 2025).

These decisions join other district courts across the country that have overwhelmingly rejected *Matter of Yajure Hurtado's* new interpretation that those who entered unlawfully and are later apprehended are now subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2). Petitioner provided a sampling in his Petition of the over 300 and counting cases that have rejected Respondents' interpretation and granted relief. Dkt. 1.

However, even if this Court considers the argument that Petitioner is in fact subject to mandatory detention, as Respondents argue, courts across the country continue to hold that section 1225 does not apply to individuals who entered without inspection and were detained, years later, within the United States. *See supra.*

Further, this Court is not required, and should not, give deference to the recent Board decision cited in Respondent's brief. In *Loper Bright*, the Supreme Court was clear that "[c]ourts

must exercise their independent judgment in deciding whether an agency has acted within its statutory authority," and indeed "may not defer to an agency interpretation of the law simply because a statute is ambiguous." *Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369, 412 (2024). Rather, this Court can simply look to the Supreme Court's own words in *Jennings* that held that for decades, § 1225 has applied only to noncitizens "seeking admission into the country"—i.e., new arrivals, and that this contrasts with § 1226, which applies to noncitizens "already in the country." *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 289 (2018). The Court in *Jennings* was abundantly clear about these interpretations. Petitioner in this case is not a new arrival and had been in the United States for 20 years at the time of his detention.

The text of sections 1225 and 1226, together with binding Supreme Court precedent interpreting those provisions and the numerous district court decisions confirm that he is subject to section 1226(a)'s discretionary detention scheme.

D. Petitioner's Continued Detention Without a Bond Hearing is a Fifth Amendment Violation.

Petitioner's deprivation of his liberty by being deprived of the opportunity to request a bond hearing is a violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment. Petitioner has not been found to be a danger to the community and Respondents do not allege that detention is to ensure Petitioner's appearance during removal proceedings. *See Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001). Respondents have not put forth a credible argument that Petitioner could not be safely released to his community and family.

Respondents contend Petitioner has no claim of right under the Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause because he is only entitled to the due process provided to him under the INA. Dkt. 4. Respondents cite to *Dept. of Homeland Sec. v. Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. 103

(2020) to support their position. *Id.* But this Court has already found *Thuraissigiam* is not preclusive on the facts of these cases because (1) Petitioner is not challenging his removal, but rather detention during removal, and (2) he was not detained at the border on the threshold of initial entry, but rather after living in the United States for nearly 20 years. *See Rodriguez Cortina v. De Anda-Ybarra*, Case No. 3:25-cv-00523 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 18, 2025); *Vasquez Chinchilla v. De Anda-Ybarra*, Case No. 3:25-cv-00548 (W.D. Tex. Nov. 24 2025). Respondents' position overlooks the well-established "distinction between an alien who has effected an entry into the United States and one who has never entered [that] runs throughout immigration law." *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 693. "[O]nce an alien enters the country, the legal circumstance changes, for the Due Process Clause applies to all "persons" within the United States, including aliens, whether their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary, or permanent." *Id.*

The Supreme Court's balancing test in *Mathews v. Eldridge* is dispositive. "The fundamental requirement of due process is the opportunity to be heard 'at a meaningful time and in a meaningful manner.'" *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 333 (1976) (quoting Armstrong v. Manzo, 380 U.S. 545, 552 (1965)). "[I]dentification of the specific dictates of due process generally requires consideration of three distinct factors": (1) "the private interest that will be affected by the official action"; (2) "the [g]overnment's interest, including the function involved and the fiscal and administrative burdens that the additional or substitute procedural requirement would entail," and (3) "the risk of an erroneous deprivation of such interest through the procedures used, and the probable value, if any, of additional or substitute procedural safeguards." *Id.* at 335.

In regard to the first *Mathews* factor, Petitioner has a significant private interest in avoiding detention, one of the "most elemental of liberty interests." *See Hamdi v. Rumsfeld,* 542 U.S. 507, 529 (2004). Additionally, Petitioner resides in the Chicagoland area, has a U.S. citizen partner, has two U.S. minor citizen children, and supports himself and his family. *See* Dkt. 1. Pg. 4. Petitioner is now detained in another state, "experiencing [many of] the deprivations of incarceration, including loss of contacts with friends and family, loss of income earning…lack of privacy, and, most fundamentally, the lack of freedom of movement." *See Günaydin v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-01151, 2025 WL 1459154, at *7 (D. Minn. May 21, 2025).

As to the second *Mathews* factor, a risk of erroneous deprivation is minimized through a bond hearing, where an Immigration Judge can determine whether Petitioner is a flight risk or a danger to the community. *See Lopez Campos*, 2025 WL 2496379, at *9. Petitioner has been in the United States for nearly 20 years, has two US citizen children and a U.S. citizen partner,, factors that would minimize his flight risk. *See* Dkt. 1. Pg 4.

Finally, as to the third factor, while Respondents do have "a legitimate interest in ensuring noncitizens' appearance at removal proceedings and preventing harms to the community," here, Respondents have not established an interest in regards to detaining Petitioner who may well convince "a neutral adjudicator, following a hearing and assessment of the evidence, that his ongoing detention is not warranted." *Sampiao v. Hyde,* No. 1:25-cv-11981-JEK, 2025 WL 2607924, at *12 (D. Mass. Sept. 9, 2025).

As such, Petitioner's current detention under the framework of Section 1225(b)(2)(A) violates Petitioner's Fifth Amendment Due Process rights.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should order Petitioner's release or in the alternative, order Respondents to schedule a neutral bond hearing under section 1226 for Petitioner's removal proceedings within a reasonable time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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