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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 Angel Alejandro QUEZADA GRADO

11 and

12 Qinchuan Liu CHAMBERS

13
14 Petitioners-Plaintiffs,

15 v.

16 Pamela Bondi, U.S. Attorney General;
17 Kristi Noem, Secretary, U.S. Dept. of
18 Homeland Security; Joseph B. Edlow,
19 Director, U.S. Citizenship and
20 Immigration Services; Todd Lyons,
Acting Director of Immigration and
Customs Enforcement; and Gregory J.
Archambeault, San Diego Field Office
Director for ICE ERO,

21 Respondents-Defendants.
22
23

Case No. 25CV3833 MMP
Judge Sammartino

**MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN
SUPPORT OF LEAD
PETITIONER'S EMERGENCY
MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER**

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1 *I. INTRODUCTION*

2
3 Petitioner Angel Alejandro Quezada Grado seeks emergency relief to prevent
4 his imminent arrest and detention by Immigration and Customs Enforcement
5 (“ICE”) at his mandatory adjustment-of-status interviews at the San Diego Field
6 Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”). Mr. Quezada
7
8 Grado was inspected and admitted, is married to a U.S. citizen, has a properly filed
9 Form I-130 and Form I-485 application, and is statutorily eligible to adjust status
10 under 8 U.S.C. § 1255(a). See Exs. A-C. His interview is scheduled for January 6,
11 2026. Ex. D (Interview Notice).

12 In recent weeks, ICE has begun arresting marriage-based adjustment
13 applicants at USCIS interviews in San Diego and across California, using pre-signed
14 warrants and without individualized assessments. *See* Exs. E-G (Attorney Decls.;

15 ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 50–56 (News Reports). Attorneys with decades of experience have
16 submitted sworn statements describing these arrests as unprecedented and
17 coordinated with USCIS interviews. Exs. E-G. Public reporting confirms the same
18 pattern. ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 50–56. Petitioner therefore faces a credible and imminent
19 threat of arrest solely for appearing at the interview he is required by law to attend.
20

21 Petitioner challenges DHS’s arrest-at-interview policy under the Immigration
22 and Nationality Act (“INA”), Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”), the Due
23 Process Clause, and the Fourth Amendment. He seeks a temporary restraining order

1 preventing ICE from arresting him at or in connection with his interview, or, in the
2 alternative, requiring an individualized hearing before any arrest or detention.
3

4 Petitioner satisfies all requirements for emergency relief. He is likely to
5 succeed on the merits, face irreparable harm absent relief, and the balance of equities
6 and public interest strongly favor protecting individuals who are complying with the
7 statutory adjustment process.
8

9 *II. STATEMENT OF FACTS*

10 Petitioner Quezada Grado entered the United States on a B-2 visa in 2010 and
11 has lived in San Diego since childhood. Ex. A. He married a U.S. citizen in 2023
12 and filed a concurrently submitted Form I-130 and Form I-485 on June 23, 2025.
13 *Id.*; Exc. B-D. USCIS scheduled his mandatory interview for January 6, 2026. Ex.
14 D.
15

16 Beginning in November 2025, immigration attorneys in San Diego reported
17 that ICE had begun arresting marriage-based adjustment applicants at USCIS
18 interviews. Exs. E-G. Sworn declarations submitted with this motion describe
19 multiple arrests at the San Diego Field Office, all involving applicants who had
20 overstayed visas but were otherwise eligible to adjust status. Attorneys observed that
21 the warrants used in these arrests were digitally pre-signed on November 15, 2025,
22 with handwritten details added on the day of arrest, suggesting pre-planned
23

1 enforcement actions rather than individualized determinations required to establish
2 probable cause. Exs. G-I.

3
4 Multiple news outlets have reported similar arrests in San Diego, Fresno, and
5 other California cities. ECF No. 1 ¶¶ 50–56. These reports describe ICE officers
6 waiting until the conclusion of interviews and arresting applicants based solely on
7 their lack of current lawful status. Attorneys with decades of experience uniformly
8 state that such arrests represent a sharp departure from longstanding practice.

9
10 Multiple cases in this District reflect the same pattern of arresting adjustment
11 applicants at their USCIS interviews. *See Hirsh v. Bondi*, 3:25-cv-03241-GPC-
12 BLM, ECF No. 1 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 21, 2025); *Castro v. Noem*, No.
13 3:25-cv-03808-CAB-KSC, ECF No. 3 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 30, 2025); *Boza v. Bondi*, No.
14 25-cv-3526-AGS-SBC, 2025 LX 583936 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 15, 2025); *Silva v. Noem*,
15 No. 25-cv-3515-AGS-BLM, 2025 LX 542580 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 15, 2025).

16 Petitioner’s interview is scheduled at the same field office where these arrests
17 have occurred. Ex. D. Neither USCIS nor ICE has provided any assurance that
18 Petitioner will not be subject to the same treatment. *See Declaration of Petitioner’s*
19 *Counsel*, filed concurrently. Petitioners therefore face a credible, imminent threat of
20 arrest and detention.

21
22 *III. LEGAL STANDARD*

1 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(b) governs the issuance of a Temporary
2 Restraining Order (“TRO”). “The legal standard for a TRO is substantially identical
3 to the standard for a preliminary injunction.” *Stuhlbarg Int’l Sales Co. v. Brush and*
4 *Co.*, 240 F.3d 832 (9th Cir. 2001). Petitioner is entitled to a TRO if he establishes:
5 (1) a likelihood of success on the merits; (2) a likelihood of irreparable harm to the
6 moving party in the absence of preliminary relief; (3) that the balance of equities tips
7 in favor of the moving party; and (4) that an injunction is in the public interest. *Wells*
8 *Fargo & Co. v. ABD Ins. & Fin. Servs, Inc.*, 758 F.3d 1069, 1071 (9th Cir. 2014)
9 (citing *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 22 (2009)).
10
11

12 The Ninth Circuit has adopted a “sliding scale” approach wherein “the
13 elements of the temporary restraining order test are balanced, so that a stronger
14 showing of one element may offset a weaker showing of another.” *Pimentel v.*
15 *Dreyfus*, 670 F.3d 1096, 1105 (9th Cir. 2012) (per curium) (citations omitted). Thus,
16 a TRO may issue where “serious questions going to the merits [are] raised and the
17 balance of hardship tips sharply in [Petitioner’s] favor.” *Alliance for the Wild*
18 *Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1131 (9th Cir. 2011); *Short v. Brown*, 893 F.3d
19 671 (9th Cir. 2018). To succeed under the “serious question” test Petitioner must
20 show that he is likely to suffer irreparable injury and that an injunction is in the
21 public interest. 632 F.3d at 1132. “[W]hen the Government is the opposing party,”
22
23

1 the final two factors “merge.” *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418, 435 (2009). Petitioners
2 satisfy both standards.

3
4 *IV. ARGUMENT*

5
6 **A. PETITIONER IS LIKELY TO SUCCEED ON THE MERITS**

7
8 ***1. Respondents’ Arrest at Interview Policy Violates the INA and***
9 ***the APA***

10 Respondents’ practice of arresting adjustment of status applicants at their
11 USCIS interviews is unlawful because it contradicts the structure and purpose of the
12 INA, frustrates Congress’s mandated adjudicatory process, and constitutes an
13 unexplained and impermissible policy shift under the APA. Courts across the
14 country—including multiple within this Circuit—have condemned materially
15 identical practices.

16 ***a. The INA Requires USCIS to Adjudicate Adjustment Applications***
17 ***Before Enforcement Action Is Taken***

18 Section 245 of the INA, 8 U.S.C. § 1255(a), establishes a sequential
19 adjudicatory process for determining whether a noncitizen is eligible to adjust status.
20 Congress designed this process to allow applicants to appear for biometrics, attend
21 an interview, supplement the record, and receive a reasoned adjudication.
22

1 In *You v. Nielsen*, the court held that DHS may not use the adjustment
2 interview as a pretext for arrest, because doing so “undermines the statutory scheme”
3 and “subverts the adjudicatory process Congress created.” 321 F. Supp. 3d 451, 463–
4 64 (S.D.N.Y. 2018). The INA “presupposes a good faith adjudication,” and DHS
5 cannot “engineer the failure” of an adjustment application by arresting the applicant
6 at the very moment she is complying with the statute. *Id.*

8 Respondents’ policy here is indistinguishable: by arresting Petitioner at the
9 interview, DHS prevents USCIS from adjudicating the application, thereby
10 nullifying the statutory process Congress mandated.

12 *b. Courts Across the Country Have Rejected DHS’s Attempts to*
13 *Short Circuit the Adjustment Process*

14 i. *Lin v. Nielsen* (E.D. Pa. 2019)

15 In *Lin v. Nielsen*, the court held that DHS violated the INA when it arrested
16 an adjustment applicant at her interview, explaining that the INA requires a
17 “meaningful opportunity” to pursue adjustment and DHS cannot “defeat the
18 statutory process through enforcement gamesmanship.” 377 F. Supp. 3d 556, 566–
19 67 (E.D. Pa. 2019). The court emphasized that the INA assigns USCIS—not ICE—
20 the primary role in adjudicating adjustment applications.

21 Respondents’ policy collapses those roles in precisely the way *Lin* forbids.

22 ii. *Diaz v. Albarran* (N.D. Cal. 2025)

1 In *Diaz v. Albarran*, the court confronted the same arrest-at-interview practice
2 and required DHS to provide a pre removal bond hearing, recognizing that the INA
3 does not permit DHS to “convert the adjustment interview into an enforcement trap.”
4 No. 3:25 cv 09837 JSC, 2025 WL 3496686, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 5, 2025).
5

6 iii. *Franco v. Meyer* (E.D. Cal. 2025)

7 In *Franco v. Meyer*, the court held that DHS’s arrest at interview conduct was
8 likely unlawful because it “frustrates the statutory purpose of § 1255(a)” and
9 deprives applicants of the process Congress created. No. 1:25 cv 01620 DAD CKD,
10 2025 LX 570989 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 25, 2025).
11

12 iv. *Pablo Sequen v. Kaiser* (2025)

13 In *Pablo Sequen v. Kaiser*, the court again condemned DHS’s practice of
14 arresting applicants at their interviews, holding that the INA requires a “fair and
15 orderly adjudication” and DHS cannot “preempt adjudication through enforcement
16 action.” 793 F. Supp. 3d 1114, 1122–23 (2025).
17

18 These cases reflect a growing judicial consensus: DHS may not weaponize
19 the adjustment interview to avoid adjudication.

20 *c. Respondents’ Policy Is Arbitrary and Capricious Under the*
21 *APA*

22 Even if the INA did not independently prohibit Respondents’ conduct (it
23 does), the policy is unlawful under the APA because DHS has abruptly departed

1 from longstanding practice without acknowledging the change or providing a
2 reasoned explanation.

3
4 Under *FCC v. Fox Television Stations*, an agency must:

- 5 • acknowledge when it changes policy,
6 • provide a reasoned explanation for the change, and
7 • address reliance interests. 556 U.S. 502, 515–16 (2009).

8 Respondents have done none of these things. For decades, DHS permitted
9 adjustment applicants to attend interviews without fear of arrest. The sudden shift to
10 arrest at interview tactics—without notice, explanation, or acknowledgment—
11 violates the APA’s core requirement of reasoned decision making.
12

13 Courts applying *Fox* in the immigration context have repeatedly held that
14 DHS must justify abrupt changes in enforcement practices. See, e.g., *You*, 321 F.
15 Supp. 3d at 463 (DHS’s arrest at interview conduct was arbitrary and capricious).

16 *d. Respondents’ Policy Deprives Applicants of the INA’s Promise*
17 *of a Meaningful Opportunity to Adjust Status*

18 Across all these cases—*You*, *Lin*, *Diaz*, *Franco*, *Pablo Sequen*—courts have
19 recognized a consistent principle: the INA guarantees applicants a meaningful
20 opportunity to pursue adjustment, and DHS may not defeat that opportunity through
21 enforcement tactics that prevent adjudication.

22 Respondents’ policy violates that principle by:
23

- 1
- preventing USCIS from adjudicating Petitioner’s application,
 - depriving Petitioner of the statutory process Congress created, and
 - manufacturing the very “removability” DHS then uses to justify
- 2
3
4
5 detention.

6 This is not a permissible exercise of discretion; it is a statutory violation.

7 **2. Petitioner Is Likely to Prevail on His Claim That He Has a**
8 **Protected Liberty Interest That Mandates a Pre-Deprivation**
9 **Hearing**

10
11 The Fifth Amendment prohibits the government from depriving a person of
12 liberty without notice and an opportunity to be heard at a meaningful time and in a
13 meaningful manner. When the government plans the deprivation—as DHS does
14 when it directs an applicant to appear for a USCIS interview and then arrests him
15 there—due process requires pre deprivation process with a prompt individualized
16 hearing immediately afterward, which Respondents have not done.

17 Federal courts across California and the country have repeatedly held that
18 noncitizens arrested in the course of pursuing lawful immigration relief possess a
19 protected liberty interest that cannot be extinguished without individualized review.

20 Petitioner is therefore overwhelmingly likely to succeed on this claim.
21
22
23

1 a. *The Constitution Protects Petitioner’s Liberty Interest and*
2 *Requires Procedural Safeguards Before the Government May*
3 *Detain Him*
4

5 The Supreme Court has long recognized that noncitizens physically present in
6 the United States possess a constitutionally protected liberty interest in freedom from
7 physical restraint. In *Zadvydas v. Davis*, the Court held that “[f]reedom from
8 imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical
9 restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty the Due Process Clause protects.” 533 U.S.
10 678, 690 (2001). This principle applies regardless of immigration status.
11

12 Because detention is a severe deprivation of liberty, due process requires
13 procedural safeguards before the government may impose it. Under *Mathews v.*
14 *Eldridge*, courts evaluate due process claims by balancing:

- 15 1. the private interest affected,
16 2. the risk of erroneous deprivation under current procedures, and
17 3. the government’s interest. 424 U.S. 319, 335 (1976).

18 All three factors weigh decisively in Petitioner’s favor:

- 19 • Private interest: Petitioner’s physical liberty is at stake—the highest
20 protected interest.
21 • Risk of error: Arrest at interview practices create a heightened risk
22 of erroneous deprivation, as multiple courts have recognized.
23

1 • Government interest: DHS has no legitimate interest in detaining
2 individuals without individualized findings, especially when DHS itself orchestrated
3 the encounter.
4

5 Under *Mathews*, Respondents’ refusal to provide a hearing is unconstitutional.

6 *b. When DHS Engineers the Circumstances of Detention, Due*
7 *Process Requires a Pre Deprivation Hearing*

8 Where the government initiates the deprivation and the deprivation is
9 foreseeable, due process requires pre deprivation process. DHS:
10

- 11 1. directed Petitioner to appear at a USCIS interview,
- 12 2. controlled the time, place, and manner of the encounter, and
- 13 3. has likely planned in advance to arrest him there.

14 This is not a spontaneous enforcement action. It is a government orchestrated
15 deprivation of liberty. Courts have repeatedly held that such conduct triggers
16 heightened procedural protections.

17 In *Sanchez v. McAleenan*, the court held that when DHS’s actions “create the
18 circumstances leading to detention,” due process requires a meaningful opportunity
19 to be heard before or immediately after the deprivation. 2024 WL 1256264, at *2
20 (D. Md. Mar. 25, 2024). The court emphasized that DHS cannot “manufacture the
21 basis for detention” and then deny process.

22 That is precisely what occurred here.
23

1
2 *c. Courts Across California Have Held That Applicants Arrested*
3 *at Their Interviews Are Entitled to Hearings*

4 i. Qian Sun v. Santacruz (C.D. Cal. 2025)

5 The court held that an adjustment applicant arrested at her interview had a
6 protected liberty interest requiring a bond hearing, explaining that “detention that
7 results from compliance with the INA’s adjudicatory process cannot be imposed
8 without procedural safeguards.” 2025 LX 379426.

9 ii. Garro Pinchi v. Noem (N.D. Cal. 2025)

10
11 The court held that DHS’s arrest at interview practice “implicates a core
12 liberty interest protected by the Fifth Amendment” and requires individualized
13 review. 5:25-cv-05632, ECF No. 6.

14 iii. Fanfan v. Noem (S.D. Cal. 2025)

15 Judge Sabraw held that arresting an applicant at his interview “raises serious
16 due process concerns” and that detention without individualized findings “cannot be
17 squared with constitutional requirements.” 2025 LX 584095.

18 iv. Arzate v. Andrews (E.D. Cal. 2025)

19 The court held that a noncitizen detained after pursuing lawful immigration
20 relief was entitled to a hearing because “the government’s interest in detention does
21 not override the individual’s fundamental liberty interest absent individualized
22 findings.” 2025 LX 316975.

1 v. *Sequen v. Albarran* (N.D. Cal. 2025)

2 The court ordered a hearing for an applicant arrested at his interview, holding
3 that due process requires “a prompt opportunity to contest the factual and legal basis
4 for detention.” 2025 LX 529230.
5

6 These cases reflect a clear judicial consensus: DHS may not use the
7 adjustment interview as a mechanism for detention without providing individualized
8 process.
9

10 *d. Petitioner Is Likely to Succeed on His Due Process Claim*

11 Respondents’ arrest at interview practice deprives Petitioner of liberty without
12 notice, denies him any opportunity to be heard, and creates a foreseeable and
13 government engineered deprivation.

14 Petitioner is therefore overwhelmingly likely to prevail on his claim that he
15 has a protected liberty interest that mandates a pre deprivation hearing.

16 **3. *Petitioner is Likely to Prevail on His Claim That Respondents’***
17 ***Actions Violate Petitioners’ Fourth Amendment Rights***

18 The Fourth Amendment protects all persons within the United States—
19 citizens and noncitizens alike—from unreasonable searches and seizures. Arrests by
20 immigration authorities constitute “seizures” within the meaning of the Fourth
21 Amendment and must therefore be supported by a valid warrant or individualized
22

1 probable cause. *See Kidd v. Mayorkas*, 734 F. Supp. 3d 967, 979 (C.D. Cal. 2024).

2 Respondents’ arrest-at-interview practice violates these constitutional requirements.

3
4 Recent arrests at the San Diego USCIS Field Office demonstrate that ICE has
5 been executing warrants that were digitally pre-signed on November 15, 2025,
6 regardless of the date of the arrest. Ex. E (Rodriguez Decl.) ¶ 5; Ex. F (Cavarria
7 Decl.) ¶ 7; Exs. H-I. The remaining portions of the warrants—including the name of
8 the individual and the asserted basis for removability—were handwritten on the day
9 of the arrest. Attorneys who witnessed these arrests uniformly observed that the
10 warrants lacked individualized factual detail and appeared to have been prepared in
11 advance of any interview or case-specific review. These observations are consistent
12 with the pattern of enforcement actions described in sworn declarations submitted
13 with this motion.

14
15 A warrant is constitutionally valid only if it is supported by individualized
16 probable cause and issued by a neutral and detached official based on the specific
17 facts of the case. *Giordenello v. United States*, 357 U.S. 480, 485–86 (1958).
18 Warrants that are pre-signed, templated, or issued without a contemporaneous
19 assessment of the individual’s circumstances fail this requirement. *See Lo-Ji Sales,*
20 *Inc. v. New York*, 442 U.S. 319, 326–27 (1979) (invalidating warrants where the
21 issuing official failed to make an individualized probable cause determination). The
22
23

1 warrants used in recent San Diego arrests do not satisfy these constitutional
2 standards.

3
4 Moreover, probable cause must be particularized to the individual. *Ybarra v.*
5 *Illinois*, 444 U.S. 85, 91 (1979). The mere fact that an applicant overstayed a visa—
6 conduct that Congress expressly forgives for immediate relatives seeking adjustment
7 under 8 U.S.C. § 1255(a)—does not establish probable cause for arrest at a USCIS
8 interview. Nor does it justify pre-planned enforcement actions timed to coincide with
9 a mandatory benefits appointment. Arresting Petitioners based solely on their lack
10 of current lawful status, without any individualized assessment of removability or
11 risk, would therefore violate the Fourth Amendment.

12
13 Finally, the timing and uniformity of the warrants used in recent arrests
14 indicate that ICE is executing enforcement actions that are predetermined rather than
15 based on facts learned during the interview. Ex. E (Rodriguez Decl.) ¶ 3.b; Ex. F
16 (Chavarria Decl.) ¶ 10; Ex. G (Hasbini Decl.) ¶ 10. This practice is incompatible
17 with the Fourth Amendment’s requirement that probable cause be assessed at the
18 time of the arrest and based on the totality of the circumstances. *Beck v. Ohio*, 379
19 U.S. 89, 91 (1964).

20 Because Petitioners face imminent arrest pursuant to warrants that are likely
21 invalid and unsupported by individualized probable cause, they are likely to succeed
22 on their Fourth Amendment claim.

1 **B. Petitioner Has Suffered and Will Continue to Suffer**
2 **Irreparable Harm Absent Emergency Injunctive Relief**
3

4 Parties seeking preliminary injunctive relief must also show they are “likely
5 to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief.” *Winter*, 555 U.S. at
6 20. Irreparable harm is harm for which there is “no adequate legal remedy, such as
7 an award of damages.” *Ariz. Dream Act. Coal. v. Brewer* (Ariz. I), 757 F.3d 1053,
8 1068 (9th Cir. 2014); see also *Daniels Health Scis., L.L.C. v. Vascular Health Scis.,*
9 *L.L.C.*, 710 F.3d 579, 585 (5th Cir. 2013).

10
11 Absent immediate injunctive relief, Petitioners face imminent and irreparable
12 harm. Specifically, the likely unconstitutional deprivation of liberty. “It is well
13 established that the deprivation of constitutional rights ‘unquestionably constitutes
14 irreparable injury.’” *Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d 976, 94 (9th Cir. 2017)
15 (quoting *Melendres v. Arpaio*, 695 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir. 2012)). “When an
16 alleged deprivation of a constitutional right is involved, most courts hold that no
17 further showing of irreparable injury is necessary.” *Warsoldier v. Woodford*, 418
18 F.3d 989, 1001–02 (9th Cir. 2005) (cleaned up). The unconstitutional deprivation of
19 “physical liberty” unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury.” *Hernandez*, 872
20 F.3d at 994-95. Indeed, “[f]reedom from imprisonment—from government custody,
21 detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that
22 [the Due Process] Clause protects.” *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690; *Sequen*, 793 F. Supp.

1 at 1119 (concluding that Plaintiff’s detention without a pre-detention hearing before
2 a neutral decisionmaker is “likely unconstitutional,” that she had “carried [her]
3 burden as to irreparable harm. (internal citations omitted)).
4

5 If Petitioners were to be detained, they would be immediately separated from
6 their U.S.-citizen spouses, disrupting their marriage and inflicting emotional and
7 psychological harm that cannot be remedied after the fact. Ex. A (Quezada Decl.).
8 They would be transported to an immigration detention center, where conditions are
9 notoriously harsh, and they would lose the ability to participate in the adjudication
10 of their own applications. Because detention removes jurisdiction from USCIS and
11 places it with an Immigration Judge, they would try to get released on bond, and
12 then either apply for adjustment in immigration court or move to terminate
13 proceedings and continue the adjustment with USCIS. Additionally, detention would
14 jeopardize Mr. Quezada Grado’s ability to maintain financial stability and
15 employment authorization. *Id.* These consequences cannot be undone and would
16 permanently alter the trajectory of their lives in the United States. Only a TRO can
17 prevent these imminent harms.
18

19 These harms are ongoing, immediate, and cannot be remedied by monetary
20 damages or any later judicial relief. The loss of lawful status, work authorization,
21 family unity, and household stability, constitutes irreparable harm that courts have
22 repeatedly recognized as sufficient to justify preliminary injunctive relief. *See*
23

1 *Sampson v. Murray*, 415 U.S. 61, 92 n.68 (1974); *Leiva-Perez v. Holder*, 640 F.3d
2 962, 969 (9th Cir. 2011).

3
4 Courts have consistently recognized that the loss of employment authorization
5 and the resulting inability to work and support one’s family constitutes irreparable
6 harm that cannot be adequately remedied through monetary damages alone. *See*
7 *Sampson v. Murray*, 415 U.S. 61, 92 n.68 (1974) (acknowledging that “the loss of
8 income and benefits ... may constitute irreparable injury” in exceptional
9 circumstances where the deprivation threatens subsistence); *Ariz. Dream Act Coal.*
10 *v. Brewer*, 757 F.3d 1053, 1068 (9th Cir. 2014) (holding that denial of driver’s
11 licenses and work authorization inflicts irreparable harm on DACA Recipients “in
12 their everyday lives, including their ability to work, drive, and support their
13 families”); *Leiva-Perez* 640 F.3d at 969 (recognizing that deportation and loss of
14 lawful ability to remain and work cause substantial and irreparable injury beyond
15 economic detriment); *Gonzalez v. United States Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 500 F.
16 Supp. 3d 1115 (E.D. Cal. 2020) (finding irreparable harm where revocation of work
17 authorization and benefits prevented individuals from maintaining income and
18 health insurance).

19
20 In addition, Petitioner is at imminent risk of detention, removal, and long-term
21 bars to reentry under the Immigration and Nationality Act.
22
23

1 These harms are not speculative; they are imminent. Each passing day without
2 injunctive relief deepens the family’s suffering and renders any ultimate favorable
3 judgment less meaningful. Even if Petitioners prevail on the merits, no future
4 decision can retroactively restore lost income, health coverage, or erase accrued
5 unlawful presence.
6

7 Respondents may cite recent SDCA decisions denying TROs in similar
8 arrest-at-interview cases. *See, e.g., Boza v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-3526-AGS-SBC, 2025
9 LX 583936 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 15, 2025); *Silva v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-3515-AGS-BLM,
10 2025 LX 542580 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 15, 2025). But in both cases, the court denied relief
11 because the plaintiffs failed to show imminent harm. Here, by contrast, Petitioners
12 have provided attorney declarations and examples of warrants to prove the imminent
13 harm. Exs. E-G (Attorney Decls.); Exs. H-I (Warrants).
14

15 Given the imminent risk of unlawful arrest, forced family separation, loss of
16 work and stability, and deprivation of lawful status, Petitioners’ need for a temporary
17 restraining order is urgent and compelling. Immediate relief is necessary to prevent
18 irreparable injury while this matter is adjudicated.
19

20 **C. The Balance of Hardships and Public Interest Weigh Heavily in**
21 **Petitioner’s Favor**
22
23

1 The balance of equities and the public interest undoubtedly favor granting this
2 TRO. First, the balance of hardships strongly favors Petitioner. The government
3 cannot suffer harm from an injunction that prevent it from engaging in an unlawful
4 practice. *See Zepeda v. United States Immigration & Naturalization Serv.*, 753 F.2d
5 719, 727 (9th Cir. 1983) (“[T]he INS cannot reasonably assert that it is harmed in
6 any legally cognizable sense by being enjoined from constitutional violations.”).
7 Therefore, the government cannot allege harm arising from a temporary restraining
8 order or preliminary injunction ordering it to comply with the Constitution.
9

10
11 Further, any burden imposed by requiring the government to refrain from
12 arresting Petitioners unless and until he is provided a hearing before a neutral is both
13 de minimis and clearly outweighed by the substantial harm they will suffer as if they
14 are detained. *See Lopez v. Heckler*, 713 F.2d 1432, 1437 (9th Cir. 1983) (“Society’s
15 interest lies on the side of affording fair procedures to all persons, even though the
16 expenditure of governmental funds is required.”).

17 A temporary restraining order is in the public interest. First and most
18 importantly, “it would not be equitable or in the public’s interest to allow [a party] .
19 . . to violate the requirements of federal law, especially when there are no adequate
20 remedies available.” *Ariz. Dream Act Coal. v. Brewer* at 1069 (quoting *Valle del Sol*
21 *Inc. v. Whiting*, 732 F.3d 1006, 1029 (9th Cir. 2013)). If a temporary restraining
22 order is not entered, the government would effectively be granted permission to
23

1 arrest and detain Petitioners in violation of the requirements of Due Process. “The
2 public interest and the balance of the equities favor ‘prevent[ing] the violation of a
3 party’s constitutional rights.’” *Ariz. Dream Act Coal.*, 757 F.3d at 1069 (quoting
4 *Melendres*, 695 F.3d at 1002); *see also Hernandez*, 872 F.3d at 996 (“The public
5 interest benefits from an injunction that ensures that individuals are not deprived of
6 their liberty and held in immigration detention because of bonds established by a
7 likely unconstitutional process.”); cf. *Preminger v. Principi*, 422 F.3d 815, 826 (9th
8 Cir. 2005) (“Generally, public interest concerns are implicated when a constitutional
9 right has been violated, because all citizens have a stake in upholding the
10 Constitution.”).

11
12
13 Therefore, the public interest overwhelmingly favors entering a temporary
14 restraining order.

15
16
17 *V. CONCLUSION*

18 For the foregoing reasons, Petitioners request that the Court grant temporary
19 injunctive relief, enjoining Respondents from arresting Petitioners at their
20 adjustment interviews, and ordering Respondents to immediately provide assurances
21 that they will not arrest Petitioners at their adjustment interviews.
22
23

1 DATED January 2, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted

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