

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

JUAN RAFAEL CABREJA BUENO,
PETITIONER,
v.

CASE NO.: 26-CV-304

DAVID O'NEILL, Acting Field Office Director,
Philadelphia, Field Office Immigration and
Customs Enforcement, et al.,
RESPONDENTS.

**RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO AMENDED PETITION
FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS AND MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER**

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Dated: February 2, 2026

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FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JUAN RAFAEL CABREJA BUENO, <i>PETITIONER,</i> v. DAVID O'NEILL, Acting Field Office Director, Philadelphia, Field Office Immigration and Customs Enforcement, et al., <i>RESPONDENTS.</i>	CASE NO.: 26-CV-304
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ORDER

AND NOW, this _____ day of _____, 2026,
upon consideration of the Amended Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, and Motion
for a Temporary Restraining Order, and the government's response thereto, it is
hereby ORDERED that the amended petition and motion are DENIED.

BY THE COURT:

HONORABLE NITZA I. QUINONES ALEJANDRO
Judge, United States District Court

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RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO AMENDED PETITION
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RESTRAINING ORDER

I. INTRODUCTION

Petitioner has filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus and motion for a temporary restraining order, challenging the authority of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to detain him under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b). **This petition is distinguishable from the vast majority of petitions recently considered by this Court in the wake of the Board of Immigration Appeals' (BIA) decision in *Matter of Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025), which is not implicated here.¹ See e.g., *Cantu-Cortes v. O'Neill, et al.*, No. 25-cv-6338, 2025 WL 3171639, at *1-2 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 13, 2025) (Kenney, J.); *Anirudh v. McShane, et al.*, No. 25-cv-6458 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 8, 2025) (Bartle, J.); *Juarez Velazquez v. O'Neill, et al.*, No. 25-cv-6191 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 3, 2025) (Henry, J.). Specifically, as an alien processed for expedited removal, Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. §**

¹ Similarly, the claims here would not implicate the recent class-certification and partial-summary-judgment rulings issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. See *Bautista v. Santacruz*, 2025 WL 3289861, *4 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025) (addressing arguments that 8 U.S.C. § 1226, not § 1225, should apply to detention claims).

1225(b)(1). The cases cited above did not involve aliens like Petitioner who were placed into expedited removal proceedings upon their entry into the United States.

DHS processed Petitioner for expedited removal pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1) after he entered the United States without inspection in November 2022. *See* Exh. A – Form I-860, Notice and Order of Expedited Removal. However, after Petitioner claimed a fear of return to his home country, DHS paroled him from custody in December 2022 pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5) prior to a credible fear interview occurring. *See* Exh. B – Form I-213, Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien (Jan. 2026). On January 16, 2026, Petitioner attended a scheduled check-in at ICE ERO, Philadelphia Field Office and was taken into custody. *Id.*

As discussed below, despite his earlier parole, Petitioner remains in expedited removal processing under § 1225(b)(1), not 1226(a), during the pendency of the credible fear process, and is subject to mandatory detention. His parole has since terminated, meaning Petitioner has now returned to his detention status at the time of his parole—*i.e.*, mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(1)—during the remainder of his expedited removal processing under § 1225(b) or, if found to have a credible fear of return, during the remainder of his removal proceedings under § 1229a. Thus, Petitioner’s detention comports with the INA, the bond regulations, and the Constitution, and the Court should accordingly deny the petition for a writ of habeas corpus and motion for temporary restraining order.

II. DETENTION FRAMEWORK UNDER THE INA

The INA provides a statutory scheme for the civil detention of aliens pending a decision during removal proceedings, as well as once a final order of removal has been entered. *See generally* 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225, 1226, 1231. The time and

circumstances of entry, as well as the stage of the removal process, determines where an alien falls within this scheme and whether detention of the alien is discretionary or mandatory.

a. Applicants for Admission and Expedited Removal

An applicant for admission to the United States is defined as “[a]n alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or who arrives in the United States [] whether or not at a designated port of arrival. . . .” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1). As explained by the Supreme Court, “an alien who tries to enter the country illegally is treated as an ‘applicant for admission,’ and an alien who is detained shortly after unlawful entry cannot be said to have ‘effected an entry’ into the United States.” *Dep’t of Homeland Sec. v. Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. 103, 140 (2020). Put differently, an “alien who arrives at a ‘port of entry,’ *i.e.* a place where the alien may lawfully enter, must apply for admission. An alien [] who is caught trying to enter at some other spot is treated the same way.” *Id.* at 108. Such applicants for admission, “even those paroled elsewhere in the country for years pending removal—are ‘treated’ for due process purposes ‘as if stopped at the border.’” *Id.* at 139 (quoting *Shaughnessy v. United States ex rel. Mezei*, 345 U.S. 206, 215 (1953)). Pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225, immigration officials have discretion to place aliens arriving in the United States in either expedited removal proceedings under Section 1225(b)(1) or full removal proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. Under either approach, § 1225 authorizes detention of such individuals “throughout the completion of applicable proceedings and not just until the moment those proceedings begin.” *Jennings v.*

Rodriguez, 583 U.S. 281, 302 (2018).

In 1996, Congress amended § 1225(b) to add “expedited removal” procedures for certain applicants for admission. Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104208, Tit. III, § 302(a), 110 Stat. 3009-579 (1996); *see also Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. at 109–11 (describing the expedited removal process). Section 1225(b)(1) now provides that an applicant for admission is subject to expedited removal if the applicant is: (i) inadmissible because he or she lacks valid documents or is inadmissible due to fraud; (ii) has not “been physically present in the United States continuously for the 2-year period immediately prior to the date of determination of inadmissibility”; or (iii) is among those whom the Secretary of DHS has designated for expedited removal. For these individuals, once an immigration officer determines that they are inadmissible, the officer must “order the alien removed from the United States without further hearing.” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(i); *Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. at 109.

b. Credible Fear Determinations

If, however, the alien expresses a fear of persecution or torture in their home country, an asylum officer must determine whether the alien has a credible fear. *See* 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225(b)(1)(A)(ii) & (B); 8 C.F.R. §§ 208.30, 235.3(b)(4). If an asylum officer makes a positive finding of credible fear, the individual is placed into removal proceedings to pursue asylum under 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. *Id.*

As explained by the Supreme Court, “[a]n alien subject to expedited removal thus has an opportunity at three levels to obtain an asylum hearing, and the

applicant will obtain one unless the asylum officer, a supervisor, and an immigration judge all find that the applicant has not asserted a credible fear.” *Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. at 110–11 (“As a practical matter, then, the great majority of asylum seekers who fall within the category subject to expedited removal do not receive expedited removal and are instead afforded the same procedural rights as other aliens.”). An individual subject to expedited removal under § 1225(b)(1), however, including an individual undergoing further review of their asylum claim, “is not entitled to immediate release” regardless of whether their asylum claim is reviewed fully or in an expedited manner. *Id.* at 111. *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 302. Rather, § 1225(b)(1)(B)(iii)(IV) provides for mandatory detention of individuals during the credible fear review process and until removal from the United States. (“Any alien subject to the procedures under this clause *shall be detained* pending a final determination of credible fear of persecution and, if found not to have such a fear, until removed.”) (emphasis added).

c. Parole for Applications for Admission

While an applicant for admission is not entitled to release or a bond hearing by statute or regulation, the Secretary, acting through Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), has discretion to release applicants for admission from custody on humanitarian parole. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5). Such a parole is done “temporarily under such conditions as [the Secretary] may prescribe [and] only on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.” 8 U.S.C. §1182(d)(5)(A).

Parole is not an “admission” to the United States. 8 U.S.C. §§ 1101(a)(13)(B), 1182(d)(5)(A). As noted above, “aliens who arrive at ports of entry—even those paroled elsewhere in the country for years pending removal—are ‘treated’ for due process purposes ‘as if stopped at the border.’” *Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. at 139 (quoting *Mezei*, 345 U.S. at 215) (emphasis added); see also *Leng May Ma v. Barber*, 357 U.S. 185, 188–90 (1958). In other words, an applicant for admission paroled into the United States “remain[s] constructively detained at the border, *i.e.* legally unadmitted, while their status is being resolved by immigration officials.” *Ibragimov v. Gonzales*, 476 F.3d 125, 134 (2d Cir. 2007); see also *Duarte v. Mayorkas*, 27 F.4th 1044, 1059 (5th Cir. 2022) (“[A] paroled alien is legally equivalent to an alien that is held in custody at the border while their application for admission is processed.”).

ICE may terminate a parole under §1182(d)(5)(A) when, “in the opinion of the Secretary of Homeland Security, “the purposes of such parole . . . have been served.” 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A); see also 8 C.F.R. § 212.5(e)(2)(i). As one example, when a Notice to Appear (NTA)—the charging document that initiates proceedings—is served on the parolee, this serves as written notice of termination of parole. See *Matter of Arambula-Bravo*, 28 I & N Dec. 388, 395 (BIA 2021) (“A charging document presumptively terminates parole because an intent to remove a noncitizen necessarily reflects a determination that the continued presence of that individual is no longer warranted.”). No pre-termination hearing is required. See *Ofosu v. McElroy*, 98 F.3d 694, 700 (2d Cir. 1996) (explaining that parole “may be ended without hearings or special forms.”); *Ahrens v. Rojas*, 292 F.2d 406, 410 (5th

Cir. 1961) (“Neither the statute nor the regulation provides for a hearing on revocation of parole.”). Further, at the expiration of the time for which parole was authorized, “[p]arole shall be automatically terminated without written notice.” 8 C.F.R. § 212.5(e)(1)(ii).

d. Return to Custody After Parole Termination

After parole is terminated, “the alien shall forthwith return or be returned to the custody from which he was paroled and thereafter his case shall *continue to be dealt with in the same manner as that of any other applicant for admission to the United States.*” 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A) (emphasis added); 8 C.F.R. § 212.5(e)(2)(i) (explaining that after automatic termination, the alien “shall be restored to the status that he or she had at the time of parole”). Once parole is terminated, “[a]ny further inspection or hearing shall be conducted under section 235 [8 U.S.C. § 1225] or 240 [8 U.S.C. § 1229a] of the Act.” 8 C.F.R. § 212.5(e)(2)(i); *see Ahrens*, 292 F.2d at 410 (noting that after parole termination, “the plaintiff’s status was the same as if he had been stopped at the border.”). The grant of parole and its termination is committed to the broad discretion of the Secretary. *See Samirah v. O’Connell*, 335 F.3d 545, 549 (7th Cir. 2003) (holding DHS’s authority to “grant or revoke” parole under § 1182(d)(5)(A) is a matter of agency discretion

barred from review by § 1252(a)(2)(B)(ii); *Hassan v. Chertoff*, 593 F.3d 785, 789 (9th Cir. 2010) (same).

III. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner, a native and citizen of the Dominican Republic, entered the United States without inspection in 2022. *See* Exh. C – Form I-213, Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien (Nov. 2022). Given his time, manner, and place of entry, CBP determined that Petitioner was inadmissible to the United States and thereafter placed him into expedited removal proceedings. *Id.* However, after Petitioner expressed a fear of return to the Dominican Republic, CBP paroled him from custody pursuant to § 1182(d)(5) to facilitate the credible fear process and, if found to have a credible fear of return, the removal process under 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. *See* Exh. B and Exh. D – I-94. On January 16, 2026, Petitioner attended a scheduled check-in at ICE ERO, Philadelphia Field Office and was taken into custody. *Id.* Petitioner remains subject to mandatory detention pursuant to 1225(b)(1) during the credible fear process.

IV. LEGAL STANDARD

A writ of habeas corpus is an “extraordinary remedy.” *Shinn v. Ramirez*, 596 U.S. 366, 377 (2022). The petitioner bears the burden of showing his confinement is unlawful. *Hawk v. Olson*, 326 U.S. 271, 279 (1945); *accord Cullen v. Pinholster*, 563 U.S. 170, 181 (2011) (habeas petitioner “carries the burden of proof”); *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 2241.

Judicial review of immigration matters, including of detention issues, is limited. *INS v. Aguirre-Aguirre*, 526 U.S. 415, 425 (1999); *Reno v. Am.-Arab Anti-Discrimination Comm. (AADC)*, 525 U.S. 471, 489–92 (1999); *Miller v. Albright*, 523 U.S. 420, 434 n.11 (1998); *Fiallo v. Bell*, 430 U.S. 787, 792 (1977); *Reno v. Flores*, 507 U.S. 292, 305 (1993); *Hampton v. Mow Sun Wong*, 426 U.S. 88, 101 n.21 (1976) (“[T]he power over aliens is of a political character and therefore subject only to narrow judicial review.”). The Supreme Court has “underscore[d] the limited scope of inquiry into immigration legislation,” and “has repeatedly emphasized that over no conceivable subject is the legislative power of Congress more complete than it is over the admission of aliens.” *Fiallo*, 430 U.S. at 792 (internal quotation omitted); *Mathews v. Diaz*, 426 U.S. 67, 79–82 (1976); *Galvan v. Press*, 347 U.S. 522, 531 (1954).

The plenary power of Congress and the Executive Branch over immigration necessarily encompasses immigration detention, because the authority to detain is elemental to the authority to deport and because public safety is at stake. *See Shaughnessy v. United States*, 345 U.S. 206, 210 (1953) (“Courts have long recognized the power to expel or exclude aliens as a fundamental sovereign attribute exercised by the Government’s political departments largely immune from judicial control.”); *Carlson v. Landon*, 342 U.S. 524, 538 (1952) (“Detention is necessarily a part of this deportation procedure.”); *Demore v. Kim*, 538 U.S. 510, 531 (2003) (“Detention during removal proceedings is a constitutionally permissible part of that process.”); *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 286 (2018) (“Congress has

authorized immigration officials to detain some classes of aliens during the course of certain immigration proceedings. Detention during those proceedings gives immigration officials time to determine an alien's status without running the risk of the alien's either absconding or engaging in criminal activity before a final decision can be made.”).

Petitioner must make a strong showing to demonstrate that his continued detention violates the Constitution or laws of the United States. *See U.S. v. Five Gambling Devices*, 346 U.S. 441, 449 (1953) (“This Court does and should accord a strong presumption of constitutionality to Acts of Congress. This is not a mere polite gesture. It is a deference due to deliberate judgment by constitutional majorities of the two Houses of Congress that an Act is within their delegated power or is necessary and proper to execution of that power”).

V. ARGUMENT

The Court should deny the petition because Petitioner's detention is authorized by statute, regulation, and comports with the Constitution and the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). As such, this Court should deny the petition for a writ of habeas corpus. For these same reasons, the Court should deny Petitioner's motion for preliminary injunctive relief.²

a. Petitioner's Detention is Authorized by 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)

² The most significant factor in seeking preliminary injunctive relief is the likelihood of success on the merits. The government's argument is a straightforward statutory analysis in support of its position. Once the Court decides the merits the parties' competing statutory analysis claims, the decision on the petition and the preliminary injunctive relief merge. Therefore, the government rests on its response here, and the matter can be resolved expeditiously, without a hearing, on the briefs.

Petitioner's argument that his detention violates the INA and accompanying regulations is without merit because ICE's current detention of Petitioner is authorized and, indeed, mandated by statute. Petitioner entered the United States in 2022 and was not inspected, admitted, or paroled by an immigration officer at the time of that entry. *See* Exh C. Petitioner was therefore an "applicant for admission" and was accordingly processed for expedited removal in accordance with § 1225(b)(1)(A)(i). *See* Exh. A. When Petitioner claimed a fear of returning to the Dominican Republic, however, he triggered the § 1225(b)(1)(B) process, which includes a referral to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for a credible fear interview and, if found to have a credible fear, further (full removal) proceedings to consider Petitioner's application for asylum under § 1229a. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B); Exh. B. Until his removal proceedings are complete, and his asylum application is adjudicated, or until he withdraws his application for admission pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(4), he remains in that expedited process. And, Congress has mandated that anyone going through that process "shall be detained pending a final determination of credible fear and persecution and, if found not to have such a fear, until removed." *Id* § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii); *see also id.* § 1225(b)(1)(B)(iii)(IV); *Jennings*, 538 U.S. at 297, 302 (section 1225(b)("mandate[s] detention of applicants for admission until proceedings have concluded.")).

Importantly, ICE's release of Petitioner on parole pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5) does not convert DHS's detention authority from § 1225(b)(1) to § 1226 because, as noted above, parole "shall not be regarded as an admission of the alien."

Id. § 1182(d)(5)(A). Rather, Congress was very explicit: “when the purposes of such parole have been served[,] the alien shall forthwith return or *be returned to the custody from which he was paroled* and thereafter his case shall continue to be dealt with *in the same manner as that of any other applicant for admission to the United States.*” *Id.* (emphasis added). Petitioner’s argument that the length of his parole was inconsistent with treating him as subject to mandatory detention is without merit. Regardless of the length of his parole, Petitioner remains “‘treated’ for due process purposes ‘as if stopped at the border.’” *Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. at 139–40 (noting that “even those paroled elsewhere in the country for years” “cannot be said to have ‘effected an entry’ and remain “on the threshold.”). Petitioner therefore remains subject to the same detention authority (§ 1225(b)(1)) until his credible fear claim is fully adjudicated and he is either granted asylum through the §1229 removal process or removed. *See Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 302; *Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. at 111; 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii).

That Petitioner is properly detained under § 1225(b)(1) receives further support from the Attorney General’s decision in *Matter of M-S-*, 27 I&N Dec. 509 (A.G. 2019). In *M-S-*, the Attorney General overruled as wrongly decided an earlier Board of Immigration Appeals’ (BIA) case, *Matter of X-K-*, 23 I&N Dec. 731 (BIA 2005), in which the BIA held that aliens transferred to full proceedings after establishing a credible fear were eligible for bond. 27 I& N Dec. at 513–14. The Attorney General explained that, by its plain language, applicants for admission transferred to full removal proceedings after establishing a credible fear remain

ineligible for bond. *Id.* at 515. Instead, this category of applicants for admission “must be detained until his removal proceedings conclude, unless he is granted parole.” *Id.* at 509.

The BIA’s decision in *Matter of Q. Li*, 29 I&N Dec. 66 (BIA 2025), builds upon the Attorney General’s holding in *M-S-*. For aliens like Petitioner who are placed into expedited removal proceedings (and potentially later referred to an immigration judge for consideration of their asylum application), the BIA affirmed that § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii) mandates their detention until the final adjudication of their asylum application, unless that alien is granted parole. *Id.* at 68 (citing *M-S-*, 27 I&N Dec. at 516). If that parole is granted and later terminated, such as, for example, through issuance of a NTA or expiration of the authorized parole period, the BIA held that the alien is then returned to custody under § 1225(b) pending completion of removal proceedings. *Id.* at 70. Thus, like the alien in *Q. Li*, the termination of Petitioner’s parole returned him to his initial custody status upon entry, *i.e.*, mandatory detention pursuant to § 1225(b)(1)(B).

As discussed above, Petitioner was processed for expedited removal upon entry into the United States and was subsequently paroled from custody to facilitate the credible fear process and, if appropriate, full removal proceedings under § 1229a. That process remains ongoing and, during such time, Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(1).

Therefore, because Petitioner is properly detained under § 1225(b)(1) and not eligible for a bond hearing, this Court should deny the petition for a writ of habeas

corpus and motion for preliminary injunctive relief.

b. This Court Lacks Jurisdiction to Review the Revocation of Petitioner's Parole.

To the extent Petitioner is challenging DHS's decision to terminate his parole, the Court lacks jurisdiction to review this decision under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B), since it is plainly a discretionary "decision or action." *Samirah v. O'Connell*, 335 F.3d 545, 549 (7th Cir. 2003) (holding DHS's authority to "grant or revoke" parole under § 1182(d)(5)(A) is a matter of agency discretion barred from review by § 1252(a)(2)(B)(ii)); *Hassan v. Chertoff*, 593 F.3d 785, 789 (9th Cir. 2010) (same). Moreover, to the extent Petitioner is alleging that revocation of parole requires a case-by-case analysis, the Court should reject this argument. While 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A) requires that grants of parole be made on a case-by-case basis, it contains no parallel language with respect to terminations, and the language of § 1182(d)(5)(A) makes clear that such a determination is left entirely to the "opinion" of the DHS Secretary.

Petitioner's claim that termination of his parole violated regulations pertaining to notice and administratively final removal orders is incorrect and misunderstands the facts and procedural history of Petitioner's case. Petitioner has not yet been ordered removed and is still undergoing the credible fear process, so the provisions of 8 U.S.C. 1231(a) and 8 C.F.R. § 241, including notice and the 90-day removal period, do not apply.

c. Petitioner's Detention is Constitutional

Petitioner's argument that his detention violates procedural due process also

lacks merit. The Supreme Court has long recognized that “an alien seeking initial admission to the United States requests a privilege and has no constitutional rights regarding his application, for the power to admit or exclude aliens is a sovereign prerogative.” *Landon v. Plasencia*, 459 U.S. 21, 32 (1982). Further, applicants for admission like Petitioner lack any constitutional due process rights with respect to admission aside from the rights provided by statute: “[w]hatever the procedure authorized by Congress is, it is due process as far as an alien denied entry is concerned,” *Mezei*, 345 U.S. at 212, and, “it is not within the province of any court, unless expressly authorized by law, to review [that] determination.” *United States ex. rel. Knauff v. Shaughnessy*, 338 U.S. 537, 543 (1950). See also *Thuraissigiam* 591 U.S. at 140 (“[T]he Due Process Clause provides nothing more.”).

The Supreme Court reaffirmed “[its] century-old rule regarding the due process rights of an alien seeking initial entry” in *Thuraissigiam*, explaining that an individual who illegally crosses the border—like Petitioner—is an applicant for admission and “has only those rights regarding admission that Congress has provided by statute.” 591 U.S. at 139–40. The *Thuraissigiam* Court explained that “[w]hile aliens who have established connections in this country have due process rights in deportation proceedings, the Court held long ago that Congress is entitled to set the conditions for an alien’s lawful entry into this country and that, as a result, an alien at the threshold of initial entry cannot claim any greater rights under the Due Process Clause.” *Id.* at 107.

“When an alien arrives at a port of entry—for example, an international

airport—the alien is on U.S. soil, but the alien is not considered to have entered the country.” *Id.* at 139. The same “threshold” rule applies to individuals who are apprehended after trying “to enter the country illegally” since by statute, such individuals are also defined as applicants for admission. *Id.* at 139–40. And all applicants for admission, “even those paroled elsewhere in the country for years pending removal,” “have no entitlement to procedural rights other than those afforded by statute.” *Id.* at 107, 139. And the statute provides no more procedural protections than allowing an applicant for admission to seek relief from removal if he fears return to his home country, and to seek parole from the agency. *Id.* During that process, however, applicants for admission may be detained without a bond hearing pending admission or removal without running afoul of the Constitution. *Demore v. Kim*, 538 U.S. 510, 531 (2003)

Petitioner’s recent detention pending either completion of the credible fear review process or full removal proceedings thus does not violate Due Process. *See, e.g., Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 701 (2001) (detention less than six months presumed constitutional). The Third Circuit has recognized that there may come a time when mandatory civil detention without a bond hearing becomes unreasonable. *See German Santos v. Warden Pike Cnty. Corr. Facility*, 965 F.3d 203, 211 (3d Cir. 2020) (analyzing detention under § 1226(c)). However, at this time, Petitioner does not challenge the reasonableness of his detention under *German Santos*. Therefore, the Court should find that Petitioner’s detention is constitutional

and deny the petition for writ of habeas corpus and motion for preliminary injunctive relief.

VI. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Respondents respectfully request that the petition for writ of habeas corpus be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 2, 2026

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on this date, I filed the foregoing Response in Opposition to Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus and Motion for TRO via the Court's CM/ECF System, thereby making it available for viewing and download for all parties to the case.

Dated: February 2, 2026

/s/ Stacey L. B. Smith
STACEY L. B. SMITH
Assistant United States Attorney