

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

Oscar Obed Barahona Castro ,

Petitioner,

v.

Kristi NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security; Department of  
Homeland Security, in her official capacity;

Todd M. LYONS, Acting Director of  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement;  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in  
his official capacity;

David EASTERWOOD, Director, St. Paul  
Field Office, Immigration and Customs  
Enforcement, in his official capacity;

Samuel J. OLSON, Field Office Director of  
Enforcement and Removal Operations,  
Chicago Field Office, Immigration and  
Customs Enforcement, in his official  
capacity.

Respondents.

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF  
HABEAS CORPUS**

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. Petitioner, Oscar Obed Castro Barahona, is a 20-year-old non-citizen from Honduras. Petitioner entered the United States as an unaccompanied alien child (UAC) on September 26, 2022, when he was 16 years old. Upon entry to the United States, Petitioner was released to the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services. Petitioner was then released to the custody of his older sister.
2. Petitioner has a pending Petition has a pending application for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a component of Respondent DHS. Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) is an immigration benefit for non-citizens under the age of 21 at the time of filing, and who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both of their parents.<sup>1</sup>
3. On January 27, 2026, Respondents detained Petitioner at his apartment complex in St. Paul, Minnesota. Respondents have articulated no lawful basis for detaining Petitioner. Petitioner believes that he was randomly detained by Respondents based on his ethnicity as a hispanic male, and the fact that he was working a construction job. Respondents have a disturbing pattern of detaining any individual they encounter who appears to be non-white, including U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and legal immigrants like Petitioner.<sup>2</sup>
4. Respondents did not provide Petitioner or counsel with any written custody determination, or explanation for his detention.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-US/eb4/SIJ>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.startribune.com/allegations-of-racial-profiling-of-us-citizens-on-the-rise-as-ice-surge-expands-in-minnesota/601564653>,  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-approaching-people-minneapolis-demanding-proof-citizenship-rcna254247>, <https://sahanjournal.com/immigration/ice-racial-profiling-minnesota-citizens-detained/>,  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/aclu-class-action-lawsuit-against-federal-government-ice-minneapolis-operation-metro-surge/>

5. Petitioner is likely detained at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building and is in imminent danger of being transferred to Texas.
6. Because Petitioner has been present in the United States since 2022, when he entered the United States as an unaccompanied alien child, Respondents cannot lawfully detain him under the mandatory detention provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1225, as an “applicant for admission.”
7. Petitioner’s detention on this basis violates the plain language of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Section § 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to individuals like Petitioner who previously entered and are now residing in the United States. Instead, such individuals are subject to a different statute, § 1226(a), that allows for release on conditional parole or bond.
8. Respondents appear to justify Petitioner’s detention by invoking 8 U.S.C §1225 and the 2025 DHS “Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for Admission,” which treats non-citizens arrested in the United States and charged with inadmissibility as “applicants for admission” subject to mandatory detention.
9. Respondents’ new legal interpretation of § 1226(a) is plainly contrary to the statutory framework and contrary to decades of agency practice in applying 1226(a) to people like Petitioner. Courts across the country have rejected Petitioner’s interpretation, holding that § 1225 applies *only to* non-citizens who are actively seeking admission at a port of entry. *See eg., Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-cv-01873-SSS-BFM (C.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025)(concluding that detention of non-citizens arrested inside the United States is governed by § 1226(a) and that DHS cannot reclassify them as “applicants for admission” to avoid bond hearings).

10. Accordingly, Petitioner seeks a writ of habeas corpus requiring that he be released from detention, or in the alternative, an individualized bond hearing before the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) in Minnesota, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.19, 1236.1.

## II. PARTIES

13. Petitioner, Oscar Obed Barahona Castro, is a 20-year-old native and citizen of Honduras, who entered the United States as an unaccompanied alien child (UAC) on September 6, 2022, when he was 16 years old. *See* Ex. A, Verification of Release.

14. Respondent Kristi Noem is the Secretary of Homeland Security. She is sued in her official capacity. In that capacity, Defendant Noem is responsible for overseeing the enforcement of federal immigration policies, including those that resulted in the detention of Petitioner.

15. Respondent Todd Lyons is the Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). He is sued in his official capacity. As the head of ICE, he is responsible for decisions related to the detention and removal of certain noncitizens, including Petitioner. As such, he is also the legal custodian of Petitioner.

16. Respondent, David Easterwood, is the ICE Field Office Director of Minneapolis-St. Paul. As such, he is Petitioner's immediate custodian and is responsible for Petitioner's detention and removal. He is sued in his official capacity.

## III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

18. This court has subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (habeas corpus), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and Article I, § 9, cl. 2 of the United States Constitution (Suspension Clause). Federal questions in this case arise under the Immigration and Naturalization Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101-1524, and the United States Constitution.

19. This Court may grant relief under the habeas corpus statutes, 28 U.S.C. § 2241 et. seq., the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 et. seq., the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651, and the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1252(e)(2).

20. Under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and § 1391(b), (e), venue is proper in this district. Venue is proper because Petitioner was apprehended in Minneapolis, Minnesota on December 4, 2025, and, upon information and belief, held in Minnesota for 6 or more days. *Sue H. v. Donald Trump*, No. 26-cv-00416 (D. Minn. Jan. 20, 2026), and *Victor P. v. Kristi Noem, et al.*, No. 26-cv-430 (MJD/SGE) (D. Minn. Jan. 19, 2026); see also *Jose A. v. Kristi Noem*, No. 26-cv-480 (JMB/ECW) (finding that jurisdiction was proper in Minnesota despite petitioner being transferred to El Paso, Texas because the decision to detain and arrest petitioner was made in Minnesota, witnesses of petitioner's arrest are in Minnesota, and petitioner was for some time actually detained in Minnesota). Venue is further proper because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Petitioner's claims occurred in this district. Venue is also proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because Respondents are employees, officers, and agencies of the United States.

#### IV. EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES

21. No statutory requirement of administrative exhaustion applies to Petitioner's challenge to the unlawfulness of his detention. Moreover, the judicially created "general rule that parties exhaust prescribed administrative remedies before seeking relief from the federal courts" does not apply to Petitioner's present challenge, as there are no prescribed administrative remedies to which he could resort. *McCarthy v. Madigan*, 503 U.S. 140, 144–45 (1992), superseded by statute on other grounds as recognized in *Woodford v. Ngo*, 548 U.S. 81 (2006).

22. DHS has taken the position that Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225. Further, in a published decision, the Board of Immigration Appeals recently

held that “Immigration Judges lack authority to hear bond requests or to grant bond to [noncitizens] who are present in the United States without admission.” *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025). Under the BIA’s interpretation, regardless of her prior release and placement in standard removal proceedings, Petitioner is ineligible for bond as a noncitizen who entered the United States without admission or parole. Accordingly, there are no administrative remedies that Petitioner could exhaust before seeking habeas relief.

23. Further, neither an immigration judge nor the Board of Immigration Appeals can rule on a petitioner’s constitutional claims. See *Matter of R-A-V-P-*, 27 I. & N. Dec. 803, 804 n.2 (B.I.A. 2020) (holding that IJs and the BIA lack any authority to consider the constitutionality of the statutes or regulations governing immigration detention that they administer and are bound to follow); *Matter of C--*, 20 I. & N. Dec. 529, 532 (B.I.A. 1992) (“[I]t is settled that the immigration judge and this Board lack jurisdiction to rule upon the constitutionality of the Act and the regulations.”); see also *Gonzalez v. O’Connell*, 355 F.3d 1010, 1017 (7th Cir. 2004) (noting that “the BIA has no jurisdiction to adjudicate constitutional issues”).

#### V. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

24. Petitioner, Oscar Obed Barahona Castro, arrived in the United States as an unaccompanied alien child on or about September 26, 2022. See Ex. D. Notice to Appear. Because Petitioner entered as an unaccompanied alien child, he was transferred to the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS), and eventually released to the care of his sister. See Ex. A. Verification of Release.

25. Respondent has a petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) pending with USCIS, a subcomponent of DHS. See Ex. B., Receipt Notice for I-360 Petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. A Minnesota juvenile court appointed Petitioner’s sister as his guardian, and found that it is not in Petitioner’s best interests to be reunited with his mother or

father in Honduras, because of abandonment and neglect. Ex. C., Order of Ramsey County Judge Nicole Starr.

26. On January 27, 2026, Petitioner was detained for no apparent lawful reason by Respondents in the parking lot of his St. Paul apartment complex. Petitioner believes that the only reason that he was detained is due to his appearance as a latino man. Respondents appeared to be lurking on private property seeking to detain individuals they presumed to be non-citizens. Respondents have an abhorrent and unlawful practice of detaining anyone who does not appear to be white, including U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and legal immigrants like Petitioner. *See supra* at footnote 1.

27. Petitioner is currently detained at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, and is in imminent danger of being transferred out of state.

#### **VI. LEGAL BACKGROUND**

28. As relevant here, the Immigration and Naturalization Act, 8 U.S.C. §1101-1524, describes two means of handling the custody and potential removal of noncitizens.

29. First, 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) authorizes the detention of noncitizens in standard removal proceedings. See 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. Individuals in § 1226(a) detention are generally entitled to a bond hearing at the outset of their detention. See 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.19(a), 1236.1(d). The text of § 1226 explicitly applies to people charged as being inadmissible, including those who entered without inspection. See 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E). Subparagraph (E)'s reference to such people makes clear that, by default, such people are afforded a bond hearing under subsection (a). As the Rodriguez Vazquez court explained, “[w]hen Congress creates ‘specific exceptions’ to a statute’s applicability, it ‘proves’ that absent those exceptions, the statute generally applies.” *Rodriguez Vazquez v. Bostock*, 779 F. Supp. 3d 1239, 1257 (W.D. Wash. Apr.

24, 2025) (citing *Shady Grove Orthopedic Assocs., P.A. v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 559 U.S. 393, 400 (2010)).

30. In addition, while on release, the noncitizen may apply for asylum or other relief in the United States. 8 U.S.C. § 1158. While a grant of asylum is discretionary, the right to apply for asylum is not. The Refugee Act, codified in various sections of the INA, broadly affords a right to apply for asylum to any noncitizen, like Petitioner, “who is physically present in the United States or who arrives in the United States[.]” 8 U.S.C. § 1158(a)(1); Refugee Act of 1980, § 101(a), Pub. L. No. 96-212, 94 Stat. 102 (1980).

31. The INA guarantees to noncitizens in standard removal proceedings who apply for asylum and other relief valuable procedural rights that reduce the risk of an erroneous decision. These include the rights to legal counsel, 8 U.S.C. § 1229a(b)(4)(A) and § 1362; to present supporting evidence (both documentary and through lay and expert witness testimony) and to challenge through cross-examination adverse evidence during a full adversarial hearing before an immigration judge (IJ), 8 U.S.C. § 1148(b)(1)(B); to seek reconsideration or reopening of an adverse decision, 8 U.S.C. § 1229a(c)(6)-(7), to appeal an adverse decision of an IJ to the Board of Immigration Appeals based on the full evidentiary record, 8 U.S.C. § 1229a(c)(5), and to appeal an adverse decision of the Board to a federal circuit court of appeals, 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b).

32. Noncitizens seeking asylum are guaranteed Due Process under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. *Reno v. Flores*, 507 U.S. 292, 306 (1993).

33. The second relevant means of detention is governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1225, which provides for mandatory detention of noncitizens subject to expedited removal under 8 U.S.C. §

1225(b)(1) and for other recent arrivals seeking admission under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2).

Respondents treat noncitizens subject to mandatory detention under § 1225 as ineligible for bond

34. The mandatory detention scheme under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) applies only to noncitizens arriving at U.S. ports of entry who recently entered the United States. The statute's entire framework is premised on inspections at the border of people who are "seeking admission" to the United States. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). Indeed, the Supreme Court has explained that this mandatory detention scheme applies "at the Nation's borders and ports of entry, where the Government must determine whether a[] [noncitizen] seeking to enter the country is admissible." *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 287 (2018) (emphasis added).

35. As to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1), this subsection provides for mandatory detention of noncitizens subject to expedited removal. Because expedited removal provides very few procedural protections, it applies narrowly to only those noncitizens who are inadmissible to the United States because they engaged in fraud or misrepresentation to procure admission or other immigration benefits, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C), or who are applicants for admission without required documentation, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(7). As relevant here, the government may not subject any other person to expedited removal. 8 C.F.R. § 235.3(b)(1), (b)(3).

36. For noncitizens in expedited removal, the INA does not grant them the rights enshrined in standard removal proceedings. To begin, an immigration officer may order them removed "without further hearing or review," 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(i), unless the noncitizen has expressed an intent to apply for asylum or a fear of persecution. But even then, the noncitizens' rights are truncated. Although the immigration officer "shall refer the [noncitizen] for an interview by an asylum officer," 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(i)-(ii), a "credible fear" interview differs from an asylum application. First, the INA does not, as it does during standard

removal proceedings, guarantee the noncitizen with the rights to counsel, to present documents or witness testimony, or to cross-examine adverse evidence. See *id.* § 1225(b)(1)(B)(iv). Second if the asylum officer decides that the noncitizen does not have a credible fear of persecution, the noncitizen may seek review before an IJ, but review is limited to the record of the interview. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B)(iii)(III). Finally, if the IJ concurs with the asylum officer, the noncitizen is removed without any further review by the Board of Immigration Appeals or a federal court. Only if a noncitizen passes a credible fear interview may they apply for asylum and related relief in full removal proceedings. See 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B); 8 C.F.R. § 208.30(f).

37. An expedited removal order comes with significant consequences beyond removal itself. Noncitizens who are issued expedited removal orders are subject to a five-year bar on admission to the United States unless they qualify for a discretionary waiver. 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(i); 8 C.F.R. § 212.2. Similarly, noncitizens issued expedited removal orders after having been found inadmissible based on misrepresentation are subject to a lifetime bar on admission to the United States unless they are granted a discretionary exception or waiver. 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)

38. These two processes have governed removal proceedings for nearly three decades. The release provisions for noncitizens placed in standard removal proceedings under § 1226 and the mandatory detention provisions for noncitizens recently arriving in the United States under § 1225(b)(1) and (b)(2) were enacted in the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104–208, Div. C, §§ 302–03, 110 Stat. 3009–546, 3009–582 to 3009–583, 3009–585.

39. Thus, in the decades that followed, most people who entered without inspection and were placed in standard removal proceedings received bond hearings, unless their criminal

history rendered them ineligible. That practice was consistent with many more decades of prior practice, in which noncitizens who were not deemed “arriving” were entitled to a custody hearing before an IJ or other hearing officer. See 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a) (1994); see also H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, pt. 1, at 229 (1996) (noting that § 1226(a) simply “restates” the detention authority previously found at § 1252(a)); *Martinez v. Hyde*, 2025 WL 2084238, at \*8 (D. Mass. July 24, 2025) (“The idea that a different detention scheme would apply to non-citizens ‘already in the country,’ as compared to those ‘seeking admission into the country,’ is consonant with the core logic of our immigration system”) (citing *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. at 289) (cleaned up)).

40. On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump issued several executive actions relating to immigration, including “Protecting the American People Against Invasion,” an order (EO) setting out a series of interior immigration enforcement actions. The Trump administration, through this and other actions, has outlined sweeping, executive branch-led changes to immigration enforcement policy, establishing a formal framework for mass deportation. The “Protecting the American People Against Invasion” EO instructs the DHS Secretary “to take all appropriate action to enable” ICE, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to prioritize civil immigration enforcement procedures including through the use of mass detention.

41. On January 21, 2025, Acting Deputy Secretary of DHS Benjamin Huffman issued for public inspection and effective immediately a designation expanding the scope of expedited removal to apply nationwide and to certain noncitizens who are unable to prove they have been in the country continuously for two years. On January 24, 2025, DHS published a Notice that expanded the application of expedited removal. Office of the Secretary, Dep’t of Homeland

Security, Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal, 15 Fed. Reg. 8139 (“January 2025 Designation”). The designation was “effective on” January 21, 2025.

42. The January 2025 Designation expands the pool of noncitizens who can be subjected to the summary removal process substantially to include noncitizens who are apprehended anywhere in the United States and who have not been in the United States continuously for more than two years. *Id.* at 8140.

43. The January 2025 Designation does not state that it applies to noncitizens who were in the United States before its effective date.

44. On July 8, 2025, without congressional authorization, the Executive Branch announced a new policy entitled “Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for Admission.” The policy asserts that all undocumented noncitizens deemed “applicants for admission” are subject to mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A). The policy purports to apply even to those, like Petitioner, whom at the time of the policy shift, the government had already placed in standard removal proceedings, released from custody, and allowed to apply for asylum. The policy shift also violates the government’s own regulations. These regulations limit the government from seeking dismissal of full removal proceedings unless it can show that the “[c]ircumstances of the case have changed”. See 8 C.F.R. § 239.2(a)(7) (emphasis added). But the government’s new policy purports to allow it to seek dismissal based on changed circumstances independent of the noncitizen’s case.

45. Adopting this same position, on September 5, 2025, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) issued a published decision holding that all noncitizens who entered the United States without admission or parole are considered applicants for admission and are ineligible for immigration judge bonds. See *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025).

46. ICE and EOIR have adopted this policy even though numerous federal courts have rejected this exact conclusion. For example, after IJs in the Tacoma, Washington, immigration court stopped providing bond hearings for persons who entered the United States without inspection and who have since resided here, the U.S. District Court in the Western District of Washington found that such a reading of the INA is likely unlawful and that § 1226(a), not § 1225(b), applies to noncitizens who are not apprehended upon arrival to the United States. *Rodriguez Vazquez v. Bostock*, 779 F. Supp. 3d 1239; see also *Gomes v. Hyde*, No. 1:25-CV-11571-JEK, 2025 WL 1869299, at \*8 (D. Mass. July 7, 2025) (granting habeas petition based on same conclusion). Accordingly, federal courts have roundly rejected Respondent's erroneous interpretation of the INA since ICE implemented its July 8, 2025 memo. See *Pizarro Reyes v. Raycraft*, 2025 WL 2609425 (E.D. Mich. Sept. 9, 2025) (disagreeing with BIA's analysis in *Yajure Hurtado*); *Sampiao v. Hyde*, 2025 WL 2607924 (D. Mass. Sept. 9, 2025) (same); *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*, 2025 WL 2496379 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 29, 2025); *Martinez v. Hyde*, CV 25-11613-BEM, 2025 WL 2084238 (D. Mass. July 24, 2025); *Lopez Benitez v. Francis*, No. 25 CIV. 5937 (DEH), 2025 WL 2371588 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 13, 2025); *Garcia Jimenez v. Kramer*, No. 4:25-cv-03162-JFB-RCC, 2025 WL 2374223 (D. Neb. Aug. 14, 2025); *Aguilar Maldonado v. Olson*, No. 25-CV-3142 (SRN/SGE), 2025 WL 2374411 (D. Minn. Aug. 15, 2025); *Arrazola-Gonzalez v. Noem*, 5:25-cv-01789-ODW-DFM, 2025 WL 2379285 (C.D. CA Aug 15, 2025); *Jacinto v. Trump, et al.*, 4:25-cv-03161-JFB-RCC, 2025 WL 2402271 (D. Neb. August 19, 2025); *Leal-Hernandez v. Noem*, 1:25-cv-02428-JRR, 2025 WL 2430025 (D. Minn. Aug. 24, 2025); *Herrera Torralba v. Knight*, 2:25-cv-03166-RFB-DJA (D. Nev. Sep. 5, 2025); *Portugues Sanchez v. Noem et al.*, 25-cv-02010 (ADA/ML) (W.D. Tex. January 20, 2026); *Santiago v. Noem*, No. 3:25-cv-361-KC, 2025 WL 2792588 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 2, 2025);

*Lopez-Arevelo v. Ripa*, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2691828 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 22, 2025);

*Buenrostro-Mendez v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-3726, 2025 WL 2886346, (S.D. Tex. Oct. 7, 2025).

47. Petitioner's detention under § 1225(b)(2) is likewise invalid. As numerous federal courts have now found, § 1225(b)(2) applies to noncitizens *seeking admission* into the United States. It does not apply to noncitizens, like Petitioner, who entered the United States without admission or parole, and were later apprehended inside the United States. In short, Respondent's detention of Petitioner under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) is patently unlawful, violates due process, and violates the Administrative Procedure Act.

## CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

### COUNT I

#### Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act – 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A)

48. Petitioner incorporates by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

49. Under the APA, a court shall “hold unlawful and set aside agency action” that is an abuse of discretion. 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A).

50. An action is an abuse of discretion if the agency “entirely failed to consider an important aspect of the problem, offered an explanation for its decision that runs counter to the evidence before the agency, or is so implausible that it could not be ascribed to a difference in view or the product of agency expertise.” *Nat'l Ass'n of Home Builders v. Defs. Of Wildlife*, 551 U.S. 644, 658 (2007) (quoting *Motor Vehicle Mfrs. Ass'n of U.S., Inc. v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 463 U.S. 29, 43 (1983)).

51. To avoid an abuse of discretion, the agency must articulate “a satisfactory explanation” for its action, “including a rational connection between the facts found and the choice made.” *Dep't of Com. v. New York*, 139 S. Ct. 2551, 2569 (2019) (citation omitted).

52. By detaining Petitioner after Respondents granted him deferred action, Respondents have violated the APA.

## COUNT II

### Violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act

53. Petitioner incorporates by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

54. To the extent that Respondents purport to detain Petitioner pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225 his detention under that statute is unlawful. The mandatory detention provision at 8 U.S.C. § 1225 does not apply to all noncitizens residing in the United States who are subject to the grounds of inadmissibility. As relevant here, it does not apply to those who previously entered the United States without inspection. Such noncitizens are detained under § 1226(a), unless they are subject to § 1225(b)(1), § 1226(c), or § 1231.

55. The application of § 1225 to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued detention and violates the INA.

## COUNT III

### Violation of Due Process (Arbitrary Detention)

56. Petitioner incorporates by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

57. The Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution applies to all persons within the United States. Once a noncitizen enters this country, whether the presence is “lawful, unlawful, temporary, or permanent,” the Due Process Clause applies to the noncitizen. *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001).

58. Petitioner has a fundamental interest in liberty and being free from official restraint.

59. The government's detention of Petitioner without formally rescinding his grant of deferred action violates the APA.

**Prayer for Relief**

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests this Court to grant the following:

1. Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
2. Order Respondents not to transfer Petitioner out of the district of Minnesota;
3. Declare that Petitioner's current detention without an individualized determination is unlawful;
4. Issue a writ of habeas corpus ordering Respondents to release Petitioner from custody, or, in the alternative, hold a prompt bond hearing to determine whether he should remain in custody;
5. Award Petitioner attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act, and on any other basis justified under law; and
6. Grant any further relief this court deems just and proper.

Dated: January 28, 2026

/s/ Evangeline Dhawan-Maloney  
Evangeline Dhawan-Maloney  
*Attorney for Petitioner*  
Atty Reg: 0401317  
Robichaud, Schroepfer & Correia, P.A.  
7500 Olson Memorial Highway  
Suite 325  
Golden Valley, MN 55427  
612) 333-3343  
evangeline@robichaudlaw.com

**Verification by Petitioner's Legal Counsel**

**Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2242**

I am submitting this verification because I am the Attorney for the Petitioner. I hereby verify that the statements made in the attached Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, including the statements regarding Petitioner's detention status are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Evangeline Dhawan-Maloney  
Evangeline Dhawan-Maloney, Esq.

Date: January 28, 2026