

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

ZAVALA ULLOA JESUS YAHIR	:	
	:	
<i>Petitioner,</i>	:	
	:	
v.	:	Civil Action No. 2:26-cv-813
	:	
J.L. JAMISON, ET AL.,	:	
	:	
<i>Respondents.</i>	:	

**RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION
FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS**

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Dated: February 12, 2026

I. INTRODUCTION

Petitioner seeks a writ of habeas corpus, 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)(2). This petition is distinguishable from the numerous 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, despite Petitioner's representations, 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.). The cases cited above and by Petitioner involved **aliens detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A)** because they are removable and present in the United States without inspection and admission or parole.

However, Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention under **8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1) [not 1225(b)(2)(A)]** because he, unlike the cases cited, was initially processed for **expedited removal** when he attempted to enter the United States without authorization. That Petitioner is no longer in expedited removal under 1225 and is now in standard removal proceedings under 1229a does not change the statutory basis for detention. Petitioner is returned to his "detention status" when his parole ends.

DHS processed Petitioner for expedited removal pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1) after he entered the United States without inspection in 2023. See Ex. A – Form I-860, Notice and Order of Expedited Removal. However, after Petitioner claimed a fear of return to his home country, DHS placed him into removal proceedings under 8

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).

U.S.C. § 1229a and paroled him into the United States pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5) to facilitate this process. *See* Ex. B. – Notice to Appear, December 14, 2023, Ex. C – Interim Notice Authorizing Parole, December 20, 2023. This 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 removal proceedings under § 1229a.² 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.

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.*

² Four Courts in this jurisdiction have rejected this argument. *See, Talabadze v. Rose*, 26 cv 360, January 30, 2026 (Judge Perez); *Seminario-Marcos v. Jamison, et al*, 26 cv 421, February 6, 2026 (Judge Kearney); *Francis Javier Vazquez Diaz v. Rose, et al*, 26 cv 342, February 10, 2026 (Judge Gallagher); *Pkhaladz v. Rose, et al.*, 25 cv 509, February 10, 2026 (Judge Leeson).

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 v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 302 (2018). 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). 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 Expiration or Termination

After parole expires or 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. 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”).

IV. ARGUMENT

As discussed below, Petitioner’s detention is authorized by statute, regulation, and comports with the Constitution. As such, this Court should deny the petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

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

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 attempted to enter the United States

without inspection in 2023 and was intercepted but not inspected, admitted, or paroled by an immigration officer at the time of that entry. *See* Ex. A. Petitioner was therefore an “applicant for admission” and was accordingly processed for expedited removal under § 1225(b)(1)(A)(i). *See* Ex. A.

i. Petitioner was properly processed for expedited removal

To the extent Petitioner argues that he was not properly processed for expedited removal, that argument is belied by the record of proceeding. The regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 235.3(b)(2)(i) set forth a process that must be applied before removing an alien under the expedited removal process. This process involves two separate steps: (i) completion of a Form I-860, Notice and Order of Expedited Removal, which advises the alien of the charges against him; and (ii) a contemporaneously executed Form I-867A, Record of Sworn Statement, during which the alien will be given the opportunity to respond to the charges in the Form I-860. 8 C.F.R. § 235.3(b)(2)(i). The Form I-860 is further supported by Form I-867A, Record of Sworn Statement, which memorializes the interview between Petitioner and the CBP officer. *See* Ex. A, D. Petitioner was given the opportunity to initial each page of the statement and sign the last page as required by 8 C.F.R. § 235.3(b)(2)(i), acknowledging that the statement is “a full, true and correct record of [his] interrogation.” *See id.* Petitioner refused to sign. Thus, by completing a record of proceeding as required under 8 C.F.R. § 235.3(b)(2)(i), DHS properly initiated the initial expedited removal processing.

Petitioner was not removed following this initial expedited removal processing, however, because he expressed a fear of return to Mexico during his interview. *See* Ex. D at 2-4. The fact that Petitioner is no longer in expedited removal proceedings does not preclude continued detention under § 1225(b)(1). To the contrary, when Petitioner

claimed a fear of returning to Mexico, 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 further (full removal) proceedings to consider Petitioner's application for asylum. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(B); Ex A. Until his removal proceedings under § 1229a are complete, which includes adjudication of his application for asylum application, or until he withdraws his application for admission pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(4), Petitioner remains in this process.

ii. Petitioner's release on parole does not preclude detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)

Importantly, ICE's release of Petitioner on parole pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5) does not preclude detention under § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii). Petitioner may try to argue that he is not subject to mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(1) because he has been paroled into the United States. *See* § 1225(b)(1)(A)(iii)(II) (applying the expedited removal provisions to certain other aliens "who have not been admitted or paroled into the United States"). However, the Court should reject this argument because the DHS Secretary's 2004 Expedited Removal Designation makes clear that this language applies only to certain categories of aliens who were admitted or paroled into the United States *following inspection by an immigration officer at a designated port-of-entry*. *See* Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal, 69 Fed. Reg. 48877 (Aug. 11, 2004) (emphasis added); *see also* 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A)(iii)(I) (allowing the DHS Secretary to designate certain aliens for expedited removal and clarifying that this designation "shall be in the sole and unreviewable discretion" of the DHS Secretary).

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). 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 claim for asylum is fully adjudicated and he is either granted asylum 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-*, 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 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, 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 upon issuance of his NTA returned him to his initial custody status upon entry, *i.e.*, mandatory detention pursuant to § 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii).

iii. No written notice is required prior to revoking parole

If Petitioner argues that ICE improperly revoked his parole without first providing notice of such revocation, the Court should reject that argument. The regulations make clear that no written notice is required prior to terminating a prior discretionary parole decision under § 1182(d)(5)(A). *See* 8 C.F.R. § 212.5(e)(1)(ii) (explaining that parole *shall be automatically terminated without written notice . . . at the expiration of the time for which parole was authorized . . . in accordance with* 8 C.F.R. § 212.5(e)(2), *except that no written notice shall be required*) (emphasis added). Only when termination of parole is not automatic under § 212.5(e)(1)—in other words, when an alien has not departed the United States or the period of parole has not expired—is notice required under § 212.5(e)(2). *But see Talabadze v. Rose*, No. 26-cv-360 (E.D. Pa. Jan. 30, 2026) (Perez, J.) (finding notice required prior to granting parole); *Vasquez Diaz v. Rose*, No. 26-cv-342 (E.D. Pa. Feb. 10, 2026) (Gallagher, J.) (same).

The Interim Notice Authorizing Parole issued to Petitioner confirms the above

regulatory scheme. The parole document states:

Your parole authorization is valid for one year beginning from the date on this notice and *will automatically terminate* upon your departure or removal from the United States *or at the end of the one-year period* unless ICE provides you with an extension at its discretion. ICE may also terminate parole on notice prior to the automatic termination date. Parole is entirely within the discretion of ICE and can be terminated at any time and for any reason. Your parole is not valid for work authorization and is not an admission in lawful status.

Ex. D. Petitioner signed this document, thus placing him on notice of the terms of his parole, including the terms of its revocation. *Id.* Accordingly, no notice or formal hearing is required when, as here, the time for which parole was authorized has expired, and the automatic termination of Petitioner's parole was thus lawful.

Furthermore, the Court lacks jurisdiction to review a parole revocation decision under 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a)(2)(B), since it is plainly a discretionary “decision or action.” *Samirah* 335 F.3d at 549 (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*, 593 F.3d at 789 (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.

iv. Petitioner is not detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)

Petitioner claims that DHS is detaining him under § 1225(b)(2) pursuant to the BIA's recent decision in *Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. at 216, and DHS's new policy. *See* ECF 1 ¶ 67. This is incorrect and misunderstands the facts and procedural history of

Petitioner's case. As discussed above, Petitioner was processed for expedited removal upon entry into the United States and was subsequently found to have a credible fear of return to Mexico, thus bringing him within the mandatory detention authority of § 1225(b)(1). Therefore, Petitioner is detained under § 1225(b)(1), not § 1225(b)(2). 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.

b. 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 his 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.

V. 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 12, 2026

Counsel for Respondents

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

Dated: February 12, 2026

/s/ Anthony St. Joseph
ANTHONY ST. JOSEPH
Assistant United States Attorney

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

ZAVALA ULLOA JESUS YAHIR

Petitioner,

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Civil Action No. 2:26-cv-813

Exhibit List

Exhibit A: Form I-860, Notice and Order of Expedited Removal, dated May 2, 2024

Exhibit B: Notice to Appear, dated May 2, 2024

Exhibit C: I-213, Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien dated February 5, 2026

Exhibit A

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Notice and Order of Expedited Removal

DETERMINATION OF INADMISSIBILITY

Event No: TPS2412000018

File No: A [REDACTED]

Date: December 03, 2023

In the Matter of: JESUS YAHIR ZAVALA ULLOA

Pursuant to section 235(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)), the Department of Homeland Security has determined that you are inadmissible to the United States under section(s) 212(a) ☐ (6)(C)(i); ☐ (6)(C)(ii); ☒ (7)(A)(i)(I); ☐ (7)(A)(i)(II); ☐ (7)(B)(i)(I); and/or ☐ (7)(B)(i)(II) of the Act, as amended, and therefore are subject to removal, in that:

1. You are not a citizen or national of the United States;
2. You are a native of MEXICO and a citizen of MEXICO ;
3. You are an immigrant not in possession of a valid unexpired immigrant visa, reentry permit, border crossing card, or other valid entry document required by the Immigration and Nationality Act;
4. to wit, on or about December 1, 2023, you illegally entered the United States at or near SASABE, AZ and were not inspected by an Immigration Officer.

AUSTIN PERKS

Border Patrol Agent

Name and title of immigration officer (Print)

AUSTIN B PERKS

Date: 2023.12.03 13:36:21
0507342097.CBP

Signature of immigration officer

ORDER OF REMOVAL UNDER SECTION 235(b)(1) OF THE ACT

Based upon the determination set forth above and evidence presented during inspection or examination pursuant to section 235 of the Act, and by the authority contained in section 235(b)(1) of the Act, you are found to be inadmissible as charged and ordered removed from the United States.

AUSTIN PERKS

Border Patrol Agent

Name and title of immigration officer (Print)

AUSTIN B PERKS

Date: 2023.12.03 13:36:23
0507342097.CBP

Signature of immigration officer

JARROD PENNINGTON

ACTING/PATROL AGENT IN CHARGE

Name and title of supervisor (Print)

JARROD W PENNINGTON

Date: 2023.12.03 13:21:04
0372282170.CBP

Signature of supervisor, if available

☐ Check here if supervisory concurrence was obtained by telephone or other means (no supervisor on duty).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I personally served the original of this notice upon the above-named person on 12/03/2023
(Date)

AUSTIN B PERKS
Date: 2023.12.03 13:36:29
0507342097.CBP

Signature of immigration officer

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Notice and Order of Expedited Removal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	
I acknowledge receipt of this notification	Refused to Sign _____ Signature of alien

Exhibit B

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
NOTICE TO APPEAR

In removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act:

File No: [REDACTED]

In the Matter of:

Respondent: JESUS YAHIR ZAVALA ULLOA currently residing at:
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
(Number, street, city, state and ZIP code) (Area code and phone number)

- ☐ You are an arriving alien.
- ☒ You are an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or paroled.
- ☐ You have been admitted to the United States, but are removable for the reasons stated below.

The Department of Homeland Security alleges that you:

1. You are not a citizen or national of the United States;
2. You are a native of Mexico and a citizen of MEXICO;
3. You entered the United States at an unknown location on or about 2023-12-01;
4. You did not then possess or present a valid immigrant visa, reentry permit, border crossing identification card, or other valid entry document;
5. You were not then admitted or paroled after inspection by an Immigration Officer.

On the basis of the foregoing, it is charged that you are subject to removal from the United States pursuant to the following provision(s) of law:

Section 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), as amended, as an immigrant who, at the time of application for admission, is not in possession of a valid unexpired immigrant visa, reentry permit, border crossing card, or other valid entry document required by the Act, and a valid unexpired passport, or other suitable travel document, or document of identity and nationality as required under the regulations issued by the Attorney General under section 211(a) of the Act.

Section 212(a)(6)(A)(i) of the Act, as amended, as an alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled, or who has arrived in the United States at any time or place other than as designated by the Attorney General.

- ☒ This notice is being issued after an asylum officer has found that the respondent has demonstrated a credible fear of persecution or torture.
- ☒ Section 235(b)(1) order was vacated pursuant to: ☒ 8CFR 208.30 ☐ 8CFR 235.3(b)(5)(iv)

YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before an immigration judge of the United States Department of Justice at:
FLORENCE SPC, 3250 N PINAL PARKWAY, FLORENCE, AZ. 85132

(Complete Address of Immigration Court, including Room Number, if any)

on 12/28/2023 at 08:30am to show why you should not be removed from the United States based on the
(Date) (Time)

charge(s) set forth above.

[Signature] Supervisory Asylum Officer
(Signature and Title of Issuing Officer)

Date: 12/14/2023

Tustin, CA
(City and State)

Notice to Respondent

Warning: Any statement you make may be used against you in removal proceedings.

Alien Registration: This copy of the Notice to Appear served upon you is evidence of your alien registration while you are in removal proceedings. You are required to carry it with you at all times.

Representation: If you so choose, you may be represented in this proceeding, at no expense to the Government, by an attorney or other individual authorized and qualified to represent persons before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, pursuant to 8 CFR 1003.16. Unless you so request, no hearing will be scheduled earlier than ten days from the date of this notice, to allow you sufficient time to secure counsel. A list of qualified attorneys and organizations who may be available to represent you at no cost will be provided with this notice.

Conduct of the hearing: At the time of your hearing, you should bring with you any affidavits or other documents that you desire to have considered in connection with your case. If you wish to have the testimony of any witnesses considered, you should arrange to have such witnesses present at the hearing. At your hearing you will be given the opportunity to admit or deny any or all of the allegations in the Notice to Appear, including that you are inadmissible or removable. You will have an opportunity to present evidence on your own behalf, to examine any evidence presented by the Government, to object, on proper legal grounds, to the receipt of evidence and to cross examine any witnesses presented by the Government. At the conclusion of your hearing, you have a right to appeal an adverse decision by the immigration judge. You will be advised by the immigration judge before whom you appear of any relief from removal for which you may appear eligible including the privilege of voluntary departure. You will be given a reasonable opportunity to make any such application to the immigration judge.

One-Year Asylum Application Deadline: If you believe you may be eligible for asylum, you must file a Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal. The Form I-589, Instructions, and information on where to file the Form can be found at www.uscis.gov/i-589. Failure to file the Form I-589 within one year of arrival may bar you from eligibility to apply for asylum pursuant to section 208(a)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Failure to appear: You are required to provide the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in writing, with your full mailing address and telephone number. You must notify the Immigration Court and the DHS immediately by using Form EOIR-33 whenever you change your address or telephone number during the course of this proceeding. You will be provided with a copy of this form. Notices of hearing will be mailed to this address. If you do not submit Form EOIR-33 and do not otherwise provide an address at which you may be reached during proceedings, then the Government shall not be required to provide you with written notice of your hearing. If you fail to attend the hearing at the time and place designated on this notice, or any date and time later directed by the Immigration Court, a removal order may be made by the immigration judge in your absence, and you may be arrested and detained by the DHS.

Mandatory Duty to Surrender for Removal: If you become subject to a final order of removal, you must surrender for removal to your local DHS office, listed on the internet at <http://www.ice.gov/contact/ero>, as directed by the DHS and required by statute and regulation. Immigration regulations at 8 CFR 1241.1 define when the removal order becomes administratively final. If you are granted voluntary departure and fail to depart the United States as required, fail to post a bond in connection with voluntary departure, or fail to comply with any other condition or term in connection with voluntary departure, you must surrender for removal on the next business day thereafter. If you do not surrender for removal as required, you will be ineligible for all forms of discretionary relief for as long as you remain in the United States and for ten years after your departure or removal. This means you will be ineligible for asylum, cancellation of removal, voluntary departure, adjustment of status, change of nonimmigrant status, registry, and related waivers for this period. If you do not surrender for removal as required, you may also be criminally prosecuted under section 243 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

U.S. Citizenship Claims: If you believe you are a United States citizen, please advise the DHS by calling the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center toll free at (855) 448-6903.

Sensitive locations: To the extent that an enforcement action leading to a removal proceeding was taken against Respondent at a location described in 8 U.S.C. § 1229(e)(1), such action complied with 8 U.S.C. § 1367.

Request for Prompt Hearing

To expedite a determination in my case, I request this Notice to Appear be filed with the Executive Office for Immigration Review as soon as possible. I waive my right to a 10-day period prior to appearing before an immigration judge and request my hearing be scheduled.

Before:

(Signature of Respondent)

Date: _____

(Signature and Title of Immigration Officer)

Certificate of Service

This Notice To Appear was served on the respondent by me on 12/14/2023, in the following manner and in compliance with section 239(a)(1) of the Act.

- ☒ in person ☐ by certified mail, returned receipt # _____ requested ☐ by regular mail
☐ Attached is a credible fear worksheet.
☐ Attached is a list of organization and attorneys which provide free legal services.

The alien was provided oral notice in the Spanish language of the time and place of his or her hearing and of the consequences of failure to appear as provided in section 240(b)(7) of the Act.

(Signature of Respondent if Personally Served)

(Signature and Title of officer)

Privacy Act Statement

Authority:

The Department of Homeland Security through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) are authorized to collect the information requested on this form pursuant to Sections 103, 237, 239, 240, and 290 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended (8 U.S.C. 1103, 1229, 1229a, and 1360), and the regulations issued pursuant thereto.

Purpose:

You are being asked to sign and date this Notice to Appear (NTA) as an acknowledgement of personal receipt of this notice. This notice, when filed with the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), initiates removal proceedings. The NTA contains information regarding the nature of the proceedings against you, the legal authority under which proceedings are conducted, the acts or conduct alleged against you to be in violation of law, the charges against you, and the statutory provisions alleged to have been violated. The NTA also includes information about the conduct of the removal hearing, your right to representation at no expense to the government, the requirement to inform EOIR of any change in address, the consequences for failing to appear, and that generally, if you wish to apply for asylum, you must do so within one year of your arrival in the United States. If you choose to sign and date the NTA, that information will be used to confirm that you received it, and for recordkeeping.

Routine Uses:

For United States Citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or individuals whose records are covered by the Judicial Redress Act of 2015 (5 U.S.C. § 552a note), your information may be disclosed in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b), including pursuant to the routine uses published in the following DHS systems of records notices (SORN): DHS/USCIS/ICE/CBP-001 Alien File, Index, and National File Tracking System of Records, DHS/USCIS-007 Benefit Information System, DHS/ICE-011 Criminal Arrest Records and Immigration Enforcement Records (CARIER), and DHS/ICE-003 General Counsel Electronic Management System (GEMS), and DHS/CBP-023 Border Patrol Enforcement Records (BPER). These SORNs can be viewed at <https://www.dhs.gov/system-records-notices-sorns>. When disclosed to the DOJ's EOIR for immigration proceedings, this information that is maintained and used by DOJ is covered by the following DOJ SORN: EOIR-001, Records and Management Information System, or any updated or successor SORN, which can be viewed at <https://www.justice.gov/opcl/doj-systems-records>. Further, your information may be disclosed pursuant to routine uses described in the abovementioned DHS SORNs or DOJ EOIR SORN to federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and foreign law enforcement agencies for enforcement, investigatory, litigation, or other similar purposes.

For all others, as appropriate under United States law and DHS policy, the information you provide may be shared internally within DHS, as well as with federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and foreign law enforcement; other government agencies; and other parties for enforcement, investigatory, litigation, or other similar purposes.

Disclosure:

Providing your signature and the date of your signature is voluntary. There are no effects on you for not providing your signature and date; however, removal proceedings may continue notwithstanding the failure or refusal to provide this information.

Exhibit C

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Date: 12/20/2023

In Reference to: A # [REDACTED]

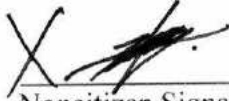
INTERIM NOTICE AUTHORIZING PAROLE

This letter is to inform you that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has decided to parole you from its custody pursuant to its authority under section 212(d)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. This notice is being issued to you in lieu of Form I-94, *Arrival-Departure Record*, see 8 C.F.R. § 235.1(h)(2), and you should maintain a copy of this letter in your possession at all times.

Your parole authorization is valid for one year beginning from the date on this notice and will automatically terminate upon your departure or removal from the United States or at the end of the one-year period unless ICE provides you with an extension at its discretion. ICE may also terminate parole on notice prior to the automatic termination date. Parole is entirely within the discretion of ICE and can be terminated at any time and for any reason. Your parole is not valid for work authorization and is not an admission in lawful status.

Parole is conditioned on you complying with the terms and conditions of your release. You must notify ICE and the immigration judge of any address correction or address change. You must report for every scheduled hearing before the immigration court and every appointment as directed by ICE (including for removal from the United States should you become subject to a final removal order). You must not violate any local, State or Federal laws or ordinances. You must comply with any other specified conditions if identified separately.

I certify that I received a copy of this notice.

ZAVALA ULLOA, JESUS YAHIR		12/20/2023
Noncitizen Name	Noncitizen Signature	Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on today's date, I served the respondent a copy of this parole notice by the following method (as checked):

☒ In person ☐ Other: _____

B 0903 Mery		12/21/2023
ICE Official Name	ICE Official Signature	Date

FILE COPY

Exhibit D

**Record of Sworn Statement in Proceedings
under Section 235(b)(1) of the Act**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Office: Brian A. Terry Border, AZ, Border Patrol

File No: [REDACTED]

Stat

Event No: TPS2412000018

Statement by: ZAVALA ULLOA, JESUS YAHIR

In the case of: JESUS YAHIR ZAVALA ULLOA

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Gender (select one): ☒ Male ☐ Female

At: Brian A. Terry Border, AZ, Border Patrol Stat Date: December 03, 2023

Before: AUSTIN PERKS

Border Patrol Agent

(Name and Title)

In the SPANISH

language. Interpreter

Employed by

I am an officer of the United States Department of Homeland Security. I am authorized to administer the immigration laws and to take sworn statements. I want to take your sworn statement regarding your application for admission to the United States. Before I take your statement, I also want to explain your rights, and the purpose and consequences of this interview.

You do not appear to be admissible or to have the required legal papers authorizing your admission to the United States. This may result in your being denied admission and immediately returned to your home country without a hearing. If a decision is made to refuse your admission into the United States, you may be immediately removed from this country, and if so, you may be barred from reentry for a period of 5 years or longer.

This may be your only opportunity to present information to me and the Department of Homeland Security to make a decision. It is very important that you tell me the truth. If you lie or give misinformation, you may be subject to criminal or civil penalties, or barred from receiving immigration benefits or relief now or in the future.

Except as I will explain to you, you are not entitled to a hearing or review.

U.S. law provides protection to certain persons who face persecution, harm or torture upon return to their home country. If you fear or have a concern about being removed from the United States or about being sent home, you should tell me so during this interview because you may not have another chance. You will have the opportunity to speak privately and confidentially to another officer about your fear or concern. That officer will determine if you should remain in the United States and not be removed because of that fear.

Until a decision is reached in your case, you will remain in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security.

Any statement you make may be used against you in this or any subsequent administrative proceeding.

Q. Do you understand what I have said to you?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have any questions?

A. No.

Q. Are you willing to answer my questions at this time?

A: Yes.

Q. Do you swear or affirm that all the statements you are about to make are true and complete?

A. Yes.

...(CONTINUED ON I-831)

Refused to Sign

Initials: _____

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Continuation Page for Form

I867A

Alien's Name JESUS YAHIR ZAVALA ULLOA	File Number [REDACTED] Event NO: IFS2412000018	Date December 03, 2023
--	--	---------------------------

Q. What is your true and correct name?
 A. Jesus Yahir Zavala Ulloa.

Q. Have you ever used any other names or nick-names in the past?
 A. No.

Q. What is your date of birth?
 A. I was born on the [REDACTED]

Q. Where are you a citizen of?
 A. Mexico.

Q. Where are your parents citizens of?
 A. Mexico.

Q. Have you ever applied for or received any U.S. Immigration documents allowing you to apply for entry, remain, or pass through the United States?
 A. No.

Q. Do you have on file, or possess any valid Immigrant or Non-Immigrant Visas?
 A. No.

Q: Do you claim any legal status in the United States?
 A: No.

Q: Do either of your parents claim legal status in the United States?
 A: No.

Q: Do either of your parents claim any other citizenship of nationality?
 A: No.

Q: Do you currently have a United States address?
 A: I have a friend's address.

Q. When did you illegally enter into the United States this time? Tell me the time and date if you can.
 A. I last entered on the 1st of December 2023, at approximately 9:30 pm.

Q. Where did you enter the United States this time?
 A. I crossed the border fence near Sasabe, Arizona.

Q: How did you illegally enter into the United States this time?
 A: On foot.

Q: Can you estimate how far from the border you were when you were arrested by the
 Initials: Refused to Sign

Signature AUSTIN H PERKS Date: 2023.12.03 13:30:20 -07:00 0507342097 CBP	Title Border Patrol Agent
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Continuation Page for Form

I867A

Alien's Name JESUS YAHIR ZAVALA ULLOA	File Number [REDACTED] Event NO: IPS2412000018	Date December 03, 2023
Immigration Service? A: At entry. Q: What purpose did you come to the United States? A: For a better life. Q: For what length of time did you plan to stay in the United States? A: I don't know.		
Initials: <u>Refused to Sign</u>		
Signature AUSTIN B PERKS Date: 2023.12.03 13:30:23 -07:00 0507342097.CBP	Title Border Patrol Agent	

EOIR - 29 of 31

**Jurat for Record of Sworn Statement in
Proceedings under Section 235(b)(1) of the Act**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Q: Why did you leave your home country or country of last residence?

A. **To work and have a better life.**

Q: Do you have any fear or concern about being returned to your home country or being removed from the United States?

A. **No.**

Q: Would you be harmed if you are returned to your home country or country of last residence?

A. **No.**

Q: Do you have any question or is there anything else you would like to add?

A. **No.**

I have read (or have had read to me) this statement, consisting of 4 pages (including this page). I state that my answers are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that this statement is a full, true and correct record of my interrogation on the date indicated by the above named officer of the Department of Homeland Security. I have initialed each page of this statement (and the corrections noted on page(s) _____).

Refused to Sign

Signature: _____

Sworn and subscribed to before me at Brian A. Terry Border, AZ, Border Patrol Stat
on December 03, 2023.

AUSTIN B PERKS
Date: 2023.12.03 13:30:26 -07:00
0507342097.CBP



AUSTIN PERKS

Signature of Immigration Officer

Witnessed by: _____

BPA LUIS TRUJILLO