THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

DEEPAK DAHIYA, Petitioner vs. TODD BLANCHE, in his official capacity as Attorney General of the United States, MARKWAYNE MULLIN, in his official capacity as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, TODD LYONS, in his official capacity as Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; JUAN BALTAZAR, in his official capacity as Warden of the Denver Contract Detention Facility, Respondents.	Case No.: _____ [redacted]

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS AND REQUEST FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Deepak Dahiya, hereinafter "Mr. Dahiya" or "Petitioner," by and through undersigned counsel, files this Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, and in support thereof, alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Petitioner Deepak Dahiya is in the physical custody of Respondents at the Denver Contract Detention Facility. He now faces unlawful detention because new DHS policy and precedent from the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA or Board) hold that any person who entered the United States without admission is subject to mandatory detention.
2. Petitioner is charged with, inter alia, having entered the United States without admission or parole. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i).

3. Based on this allegation in Petitioner's removal proceedings, it is DHS' position that, consistent with a new DHS policy issued on July 8, 2025, instructing all Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) employees to consider anyone inadmissible under § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i)—i.e., those who entered the United States without admission or inspection—to be subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and therefore ineligible to be released on bond.
4. Similarly, on May 15, 2025, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA or Board) issued a precedent decision, binding on all immigration judges, holding that "an applicant for admission who is arrested and detained without a warrant while arriving in the United States, whether or not at a port of entry, and subsequently placed in removal proceedings is detained under section 235(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA"), 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b) (2018), and is ineligible for any subsequent release on bond under section 236(a) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) (2018)." *Matter of Q. Li*, 29 I&N Dec. 66 (BIA 2025).
5. On September 5, 2025, the Board issued another decision, holding that an immigration judge has no authority to consider bond requests for any person who entered the United States without admission. *See Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (BIA 2025). The Board determined that such individuals are subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and therefore ineligible to be released on bond.
6. 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 were detained upon their entry, processed and released pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), and are re-arrested years later. Instead, such individuals are subject to § 1226(a), which allows

for release on conditional parole or bond. That statute expressly applies to people who, like Petitioner, are charged as inadmissible for having entered the United States without being admitted or paroled.

7. Respondents' new legal interpretation is plainly contrary to the statutory framework and contrary to decades of agency practice applying § 1226(a) to people like Petitioner.

8. To remedy this unlawful detention, Petitioner seeks a writ of habeas corpus requiring immediate release because Respondents unlawfully re-detained him after previously releasing him under § 1226(a). At minimum, Petitioner seeks a prompt individualized bond hearing under § 1226(a) within seven days.

9. Petitioner further requests this Court to order Respondents to show cause demonstrating why he should not be released within three days given his unlawful detention. 28 U.S.C. § 2243.

JURISDICTION

10. Petitioner is in the physical custody of Respondents. Petitioner is detained at the Denver Contract Detention Facility.

11. Jurisdiction of the Court is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1346(a)(2) in that the matter in controversy arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the United States is a Defendant.

12. This Court also has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (the general grant of habeas authority to the district court), and Article I, section 9, clause 2 of the United States Constitution (the Suspension Clause).

13. This Court may grant relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 *et seq.*, and the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651

14. Federal courts also have federal question jurisdiction, through the APA, to "hold unlawful and set aside agency action" that is "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law." 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A). APA claims are cognizable on habeas. 5 U.S.C. § 703 (providing that judicial review of agency action under the APA may proceed by "any applicable form of legal action, including actions for declaratory judgments or writs of prohibitory or mandatory injunction or habeas corpus"). The APA affords a right of review to a person who is "adversely affected or aggrieved by agency action." 5 U.S.C. § 702. Respondents' continued detention of Petitioner despite him being in lawful status has adversely and severely affected Petitioner's liberty and freedom.

VENUE

15. Pursuant to *Braden v. 30th Judicial Circuit Court of Kentucky*, 410 U.S. 484, 493- 500 (1973), venue lies in the United States District Court for the District of Colorado, the judicial district in which Petitioner currently is detained.

16. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because Respondents are employees, officers, and agencies of the United States, and because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the District of Colorado.

REQUIREMENTS OF 28 U.S.C. § 2243

17. The Court must grant the petition for writ of habeas corpus or issue an order to show cause to the Respondents "forthwith," unless the Petitioner is not entitled to relief. 28 U.S.C. § 2243. If an order to show cause is issued, the Court must require Respondents to file a return

"within three days unless for good cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed." *Id.*

18. Courts have long recognized the significance of the habeas statute in protecting individuals from unlawful detention. The Great Writ has been referred to as "perhaps the most important writ known to the constitutional law of England, affording as it does a swift and imperative remedy in all cases of illegal restraint or confinement." *Fay v. Noia*, 372 U.S. 391, 400 (1963).

PARTIES

19. Petitioner is a 32-year-old native and citizen of India, with no criminal record.

20. Respondent, Mr. Todd Blanche, is the United States Attorney General. He oversees the immigration court system, which is housed within the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR") and includes all Immigration Judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals ("BIA"). He is sued in his official capacity.

21. Respondent, Mr. Markwayne Mullin, is the United States Secretary of Homeland Security. DHS oversees ICE, which is responsible for administering and enforcing the immigration laws. Secretary Mullin is the ultimate legal custodian of Petitioner. He is sued in his official capacity.

22. Respondent, Mr. Todd Lyons, is the Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"). As the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director of ICE, he is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States and is legally responsible for pursuing any effort to remove Petitioner and

confine him pending removal. As such, he is a custodian of Petitioner. He is sued in his official capacity.

23. Respondent, Juan Baltazar, is the Warden of the Denver Contract Detention Facility. He is responsible for the immediate execution of detention over Petitioner. As such, he is a custodian of Petitioner. He is sued in his official capacity.

UNDERLYING FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY OF THE CASE

24. Petitioner entered the United States on August 26, 2023.

25. That same day, Petitioner was issued a Notice to Appear ("NTA"), charging him as an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or paroled. The NTA was filed with the immigration court on August 29, 2023, thereby commencing removal proceedings.

26. On August 26, 2023, Petitioner was issued an Order of Release on Recognizance, indicating that "in accordance with section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act . . . you are being released on your own recognizance." He faithfully complied with said order.

27. As relief from removal, he applied for Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT protections.

28. Despite Petitioner's consistent compliance with reporting requirements, absence of any new criminal violations, and demonstrated stability, he was detained by ICE.

29. From the time of his initial release on recognizance in 2023 to his re-detention, Petitioner committed no criminal offenses, incurred no new immigration violations, and remained in compliance with all reporting requirements.

30. Petitioner has a pending asylum application because he fears returning to his native country, and he was previously determined to constitute neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community.

31. Petitioner is currently detained at the Denver Contract Detention Facility. Without intervention from this Court, he faces the prospect of prolonged detention lasting months or even years, separated from his community, despite his full compliance with prior release conditions and absence of any new basis for custody.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

32. The INA prescribes three basic forms of detention for most noncitizens in removal proceedings.

33. First, 8 U.S.C. § 1226 authorizes that "on a warrant issued by the Attorney General, an alien may be arrested and detained pending a decision on whether the alien is to be removed from the United States." 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), while noncitizens who have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of certain crimes are subject to mandatory detention, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c).

34. Second, the INA 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 referred to under § 1225(b)(2).

35. Last, the INA also provides for detention of noncitizens who have been ordered removed, including individuals in withholding-only proceedings, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)–(b).

36. This case concerns the detention provisions at §§ 1226(a) and 1225(b)(2).

37. The detention provisions at § 1226(a) and § 1225(b)(2) were enacted as part of 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. Section 1226(a) was most recently amended earlier this year by the Laken Riley Act, Pub. L. No.119-1, 139 Stat. 3 (2025).

38. Following the enactment of the IIRIRA, EOIR drafted new regulations explaining that, "[d]espite being applicants for admission, [noncitizens] who are present without having been admitted or paroled (formerly referred to as [noncitizens] who entered without inspection) will be eligible for bond and bond redetermination." *See* Inspection and Expedited Removal of Aliens; Detention and Removal of Aliens; Conduct of Removal Proceedings; Asylum Procedures, 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10323 (Mar. 6, 1997).

39. Thus, in the decades that followed, most people who were apprehended within the borders of the United States received bond hearings, unless their criminal history rendered them ineligible pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c). 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)).

40. In *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") explicitly acknowledged that individuals who have already entered the United States and are not apprehended within 100 miles of the border or within 14 days of entry are subject to discretionary detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), not mandatory detention under § 1225(b).

Jennings v. Rodriguez, 583 U.S. 281 (2018). During oral argument on November 30, 2016, then–Solicitor General Ian Gershengorn stated: "If they are not detained within 100 miles of the border or within 14 days… then they are under 1226(a) and not 1226(c)." In response to a question regarding "an alien who has come into the United States illegally without being admitted [and] who takes up residence 50 miles from the border," the Government confirmed, "The answer is they are held under 1226(a) and that they get a bond hearing…" Transcript of Oral Argument at 7–8. DHS further reiterated that such individuals "would be held under 1226(a)" and cited the administrative record to support that position. *Id.* These prior representations confirm DHS's longstanding understanding of the statute and underscore the inconsistency of its current position.

41. On July 8, 2025, ICE, "in coordination with" DOJ, announced a new policy that rejected well-established understanding of the statutory framework and reversed decades of normative agency practice.

42. The new policy, entitled "Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for Admission," [1] claims that all persons who entered the United States without inspection shall now be subject to mandatory detention provision under § 1225(b)(2)(A). The policy applies regardless of when a person is apprehended and affects those who have resided in the United States for months, years, and even decades.

43. On September 5, 2025, the BIA adopted this same position in a published decision, *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*. There, the Board held that all noncitizens who entered the United States

[1] *Available at* https://www.aila.org/library/ice-memo-interim-guidance-regarding-detention-authority-for-applications-for-admission.

without admission or parole are subject to detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A) and are ineligible for IJ bond hearings. *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (BIA 2025).

44. Since Respondents adopted their new policies, a growing number of federal courts have rejected their new interpretation of the INA's detention authorities. Courts have likewise rejected *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, which adopts the same interpretation of the statute as ICE.

45. Even before ICE or the BIA introduced these nationwide policies, 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. There, 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 (W.D. Wash. 2025).

46. Subsequently, courts in this District and around the country have adopted the same reading of the INA's detention authorities and rejected ICE and EOIR's new interpretation. *See, e.g.*, *Nava Hernandez v. Baltazar, et al.*, No. 1:25-CV-03094-CNS, 2025 WL 2996643 (D. Colo. Oct. 24, 2025); *Hernandez Vazquez v. Baltasar, et al.*, No. 1:25-cv-3049-GPG, ECF No. 22 (D. Colo. Oct. 23, 2025); *Patel v. Hardin*, No. 2:25-cv-870- JES-NPM, 2025 WL 3442706, at *3 (M.D. Fla. Dec. 1, 2025) (collecting cases); *Santana-Rivas v. Warden of Clinton County Correctional Facility*, No. 3:25-cv-01896-JPW, 2025 (M.D. Pa. Nov. 13, 2025); *Castanon Nava v. DHS*, No. 25-3050 (7th Cir. 2025) (where a motions panel found that the government is not likely to succeed in arguing that 1225(b)(2) applies to all

noncitizens who entered without inspection); *but see Buenrostro-Mendez v. Bondi*, No. 25-20496 (5th Cir. 2026).

47. This Court has rejected Respondents' new interpretation and conditionally certified the following class:

> All people who are arrested or detained by Respondents in Colorado pending a decision on whether they are to be removed from the United States based on alleged violations of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or who are otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of an Immigration Court located in Colorado, where:
>
> (a) For the person's most recent entry into the United States, the government has not alleged that the person was admitted into the United States;
>
> (b) For the person's most recent entry into the United States, the person was not paroled into the United States pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A) at the time of entry;
>
> (c) The person is not a person whose most recent arrest occurred at the border while they were arriving in the United States; and,
>
> (d) The person is being detained based on Respondents' assertion that they are subject to 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A).
>
> *Mendoza Gutierrez v. Baltasar*, No. 25-CV-2720-RMR, at *3-4 (D. Colo. Nov. 21, 2025).

Petitioner is a member of this class.

48. The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California has likewise rejected Respondents' interpretation and certified a nationwide class, extending declaratory judgment to the certified class. *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 3289861, at *11 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025) (order granting partial summary judgment to named Plaintiffs-Petitioners); *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 3288403, at *9 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 25, 2025) (order certifying Plaintiffs-Petitioners' proposed nationwide Bond Eligible Class, incorporating and extending declaratory judgment from Order

Granting Petitioners' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment). The *Maldonado Bautista* court further vacated *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, but the Ninth Circuit issued a temporary stay of that order on March 6, 2026. *See Bautista v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, No. 26-1044 (9th Cir. Mar. 6, 2026).

49. These courts have rejected DHS's and EOIR's new interpretation because it contradicts the INA. As this court and others have explained, the plain text of the statutory provisions demonstrates that § 1226(a), not § 1225(b), applies to people like Petitioner.

ARGUMENT

I. Petitioner is detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), not § 1225(b)(2)

50. "Courts have noted that Respondents' interpretation of the phrase 'seeking admission' 'violates the rule against surplusage and negates the plain meaning of the text.'" *Santana-Rivas*, No. 3:25-cv-01896-JPW, at *27-28 (citing *Soto v. Soto, et. al.*, No. 25-16200, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 207818, at *9 (D.N.J. Oct. 22; *Martinez v. Hyde,* No. 25-11613, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 141724, at *6 (D. Mass. July 24, 2025); *Zumba v. Bondi,* No. 25-14626, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 190052, at *8; *Benitez v. Francis,* No.25-5937, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 157214, at *16 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 8, 2025). "The phrase 'seeking admission' in § 1225(b)(2)(A) necessarily connotes some affirmative, present-tense action." *Santana-Rivas*, No. 3:25-cv-01896-JPW, at *28. "The verb 'seeking' is a present participle, and the 'present participle is used to signal present and continuing action.'" *Id.* (quoting *Westchester Gen. Hosp., Inc. v. Evanston Ins. Co.,* 48 F.4th 1298, 1307 (11th Cir. 2022); *D.L. Markham DDS, MSD, Inc. 401(K) Plan v. Variable Annuity Life Ins. Co.,* 88 F.4th 602, 610 (5th Cir. 2023) ("The word 'providing,' used here as a present participle, most commonly describes a

person who is currently providing services.") *(emphasis in original); United States v. Hull,* 456 F.3d 133, 145 (3d Cir. 2006) (Ackerman, Sr. Dist. J., sitting by designation, concurring) ("Congress's use of the present participle 'committing' connotes present, continuing action.")).

51. "The INA defines the term 'admission' as, 'with respect to an alien, the lawful entry of the alien into the United States after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer.'" *Santana-Rivas*, No. 3:25-cv-01896-JPW, at *28-29 (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(13)(A)). "Thus, the INA's own definition of the term 'admission' supports the limited application of § 1225 to encounters with aliens along the borders and at ports of entry." *Id.* at *29.

52. Section 1226(a) applies by default to all persons "pending a decision on whether the [noncitizen] is to be removed from the United States." These removal hearings are held under § 1229a, to "decid[e] the inadmissibility or deportability of a[] [noncitizen]."

53. The text of § 1226 also explicitly applies to people charged as being inadmissible, including those who entered without inspection or admission. *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*, 779 F. Supp. 3d at 1257 (citing *Shady Grove Orthopedic Assocs., P.A. v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 559 U.S. 393, 400 (2010)); *see also Gomes*, 2025 WL 1869299, at *7.

54. Section 1226 therefore leaves no doubt that it applies to people who face charges of being inadmissible to the United States, including those who are present without admission or parole.

55. In *Jennings*, the Supreme Court describes section 1226 as governing "the process of arresting and detaining" noncitizens who are living "inside the United States" but "may still be removed," including noncitizens "who were inadmissible at the time of entry." *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 288. In harmonizing sections 1225 and 1226, the Supreme Court explains "in sum, U.S. immigration law authorizes the Government to detain certain [noncitizens] *seeking* admission into the country under §§ 1225(b)(1) and (b)(2). It also authorizes the Government to detain certain [noncitizens] *already in the country* pending the outcome of removal proceedings under §§ 1226(a) and (c).'" *Id.* at 289 (emphasis added).

56. Here, Petitioner cannot be said to be "seeking admission" as defined in § 1101(a)(13)(A). Petitioner "'has already 'entered' the country'— [he] is no longer seeking to enter the United States (lawfully or otherwise)." *Santana-Rivas*, No. 3:25-cv-01896-JPW, at *29 (quoting *Jimenez,* 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 176165, at *22, citing *Benitez,* 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 157214, at *19). Like the Middle District of Pennsylvania found in *Santana-Rivas,* "while Petitioner "has applied for asylum, that application does not seek '"lawful entry" to the United States, but [rather] a lawful means to remain here.'" *Id.*

57. Indeed, according to the OREC issued to Petitioner in 2023 upon his initial encounter with ICE, the DHS itself determined that Petitioner is an alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled who was arrested and released under § 1226(a), not § 1225(b).

58. Accordingly, the mandatory detention provision of § 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to Petitioner, who has already entered the United States, was processed by DHS, and was subsequently released pursuant to an Order of Release on Recognizance (Form I-220A). At the time of his re-apprehension, Petitioner was residing in the United States and subject to ongoing removal proceedings. Petitioner's prior release under Form I-220A reflects that DHS exercised its discretionary custody authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), not § 1225(b). The issuance of that form constitutes a formal custody determination made by immigration officials based on the facts available at the time, including Petitioner's manner of entry and procedural posture. That determination necessarily reflects DHS's conclusion that Petitioner was not subject to mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A). That prior custody determination is directly inconsistent with Respondents' current position that Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention as an "applicant for admission." Having already processed and released Petitioner under § 1226(a), DHS cannot now reclassify him under § 1225(b) without disregarding its earlier application of the statutory framework to the same underlying facts. In short, once DHS exercised its discretionary authority to release Petitioner under § 1226(a), any subsequent detention pending removal proceedings must be governed by that same provision, not § 1225(b)(2)(A).

59. Courts addressing similar circumstances have recognized that once the Government processes a noncitizen and releases him under § 1226 authority, subsequent detention pending removal proceedings must also be analyzed under § 1226 rather than § 1225. *See, e.g., Ekenge v. Baltazar,* No. 26-cv-00630-SBP at *5 (D. Col. Mar. 3, 2026); *Yaman v. Lyons*, No. 26-cv-00556-DC-SCR, 2026 WL 323060, at *4-5 (E.D. Cal. Feb. 6, 2026) ("The

undersigned finds based on the undisputed [OREC], which was made under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), that the statutory authority governing petitioner's redetention is that same statute"); *Abdulahi A.M. v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-1018-DWF-DLM, 2026 WL 323523, at *1-2 (D. Minn. Feb. 6, 2026) ("OREC forms are used for release under 8 U.S.C. § 1226," but seemingly cannot be used for release under 1225); *Chicoze-Ezechi v. Noem*, No. 26-cv-145-BAT, 2026 WL 265733, at *1 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 2, 2026) (citing *Ortega-Cervantes v. Gonzales*, 501 F.3d 1111, 1115-16 (9th Cir. 2007) for the proposition that noncitizens released on an OREC must necessarily have been detained and released under 1226).

60. Courts within this district have likewise recognized that noncitizens similarly situated to Petitioner—i.e., individuals who entered without inspection, were subsequently apprehended and released under an Order of Release on Recognizance, and are later re-detained—are subject to detention under § 1226, rather than § 1225. *Nguyen v. Woosley et al*, No. 4:26-cv-00026-RGJ (W.D. Ky. March 4, 2026); *Lnu v. Lewis*, No. 4:26-cv-115-RGJ (W.D. Ky. March 13, 2026); *Mulyan v. Maglinger*, No. 4:26-cv-109-RGJ (March 6, 2026).

61. Courts addressing this precise posture—where a noncitizen was previously released under § 1226(a) and later re-detained—have recognized that habeas relief may be warranted and have tailored remedies depending on the circumstances of the re-detention.

II. The appropriate remedy is immediate release or, at minimum, a prompt bond hearing

62. Once a court determines that a petitioner's re-detention is not authorized under the framework invoked by the government, habeas relief is appropriate, with the precise remedy depending on the factual record and the asserted basis for re-detention.

63. Courts addressing revocations of OREC or similar release mechanisms have further required the government to comply with the governing procedures before returning a noncitizen to custody. Where those procedures were not followed and there is no evidence that the noncitizen violated the conditions of release, courts have frequently ordered immediate release as opposed to bond hearings. *See, e.g.*, *Yaman*, 2026 WL 323060 at *5 (ordering petitioner's immediate release where there was "no evidence in the record that he violated any term of his release or that he has any criminal record"); *Abdulahi A.M.*, 2026 WL 323523 at *2 (ordering petitioner's immediate release while noting that the typical remedy in a habeas action is release); *Pineda-Berrios*, 2026 WL 384159 at *8 (ordering petitioner's immediate release); *Rojas*, 2025 WL 3034183 at *9 (same); *see also Pinchi*, 792 F. Supp. 3d at 1030 (upholding temporary restraining order under which the petitioner had already been released).

64. In cases where there has specifically been a fact dispute as to whether a petitioner had violated the conditions of his release under an OREC or similar status, in certain instances, courts have ordered expedited bond hearings instead of immediate release. *See, e.g.*, *Martinez Hernandez v. Andrews*, No. 25-cv-1035-JLT-HBK, 2025 WL 2495767, at *12 (E.D. Cal. Aug. 28, 2025) (ordering petitioner's continued detention pending a "timely" bond hearing where "there is a dispute of fact as to whether Petitioner repeatedly violated the terms of his parole") (collecting cases). However, other courts have found that under those circumstances, releasing a petitioner immediately remains the appropriate approach, at least where no evidence has been provided that the petitioner violated the conditions of his release pursuant to an OREC or similar status, where little or no evidence has been

provided in support of respondents' claims as to what the petitioner's conditions of release are, or where there is some argument or indication that respondents' reference to such a violation may be pretextual. *See, e.g.*, *Chicoze-Ezechi*, 2026 WL 265733 at *2-3 (stating that "a post- deprivation bond hearing is an inadequate procedural safeguard because it would occur only after detention and thus fails to address an erroneous deprivation of liberty."); *E.A. T.B.*, 795 F. Supp. 3d at 1322.

65. As previously indicated, there is no evidence here that Petitioner violated the terms and conditions of his OREC, or that ICE followed the required procedures to revoke the OREC. As such, DHS's re-detention is unlawful.

66. Therefore, the Court should grant habeas relief and order immediate release or, at minimum, a prompt individualized bond hearing.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT ONE
Violation of the INA

67. The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein.

68. The mandatory detention provision at 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) 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 were previously apprehended by ICE, released under § 1226, and have been residing in the United States prior to being re-detained by Respondents. Once ICE exercised its discretion to release Petitioner under § 1226(a), his legal posture was fixed within § 1229a removal proceedings and governed by § 1226(a)'s custody framework. Therefore, such noncitizens are detained under § 1226(a), unless they are subject to § 1225(b)(1), § 1226(c), or § 1231.

69. The application of § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued detention and violates the INA.

COUNT TWO
Violation of Fifth Amendment Right to Procedural Due Process – Unlawful Detention Without a Pre-Deprivation Hearing

70. The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein.

71. It has long been established that aliens, even if in the United States unlawfully, are entitled to due process of law under the Fifth Amendment. *See Mathews v. Diaz*, 426 U.S. 67, 77 (1976) ("Even one whose presence in this country is unlawful, involuntary, or transitory is entitled to th[e] constitutional protection [of the Due Process Clause]"); *see also Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001) ("It is well established that certain constitutional protections available to persons inside the United States are unavailable to aliens outside of our geographic borders. But once an alien enters the country, the legal circumstance changes, for the Due Process Clause applies to all 'persons' within the United States, including aliens, whether their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary, or permanent").

72. The Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment prohibits the government from depriving individuals of liberty without notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard. *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 333 (1976).

73. When the Government interferes with a liberty interest, it must provide constitutionally sufficient procedures. *Ky. Dep't of Corr. v. Thompson*, 490 U.S. 454, 460 (1989). The adequacy of these procedures is determined by weighing three factors: (1) the private interest that will be affected by the official action, (2) the risk of erroneous deprivation of

that interest through the available procedures, and (3) the Government's interest, including the fiscal and administrative burdens that the additional or substantive procedures would entail. *See Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 335 (1976).

74. Applying these factors here demonstrates that the procedures attendant upon Petitioner's detention are constitutionally insufficient.

75. First, Petitioner has a significant interest at stake. Being free from physical detention by one's own government "is the most elemental of liberty interests." *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, 542 U.S. 507, 529 (2004). Petitioner is being held at the Denver Contract Detention Facility, in a different state from where he resided before being detained, and is far from his family and community.

76. Second, the risk of erroneous deprivation is extraordinarily high. Petitioner has already been found not to be a danger to the community or a flight risk upon his initial entry, when ICE reviewed his custody and issued paperwork releasing him on his own recognizance. Nevertheless, despite not incurring any new criminal or immigration violations/convictions, he was summarily re-detained without a bond hearing and without the government identifying any new facts or changed circumstances. The only apparent material change from the time of initial release to Petitioner's re-detention is Respondents' reinterpretation of §§ 1225 and 1226. Absent a pre-deprivation hearing, there was no safeguard to prevent ICE from arbitrarily re-arresting Petitioner in direct contradiction of the prior determination that release was warranted.

77. Third, the government's interest in detaining Petitioner without a hearing is minimal, if it exists at all. The government has already determined that Petitioner does not pose a risk to

the community or a risk of flight. Providing a bond hearing before re-arrest would impose little to no fiscal or administrative burden, while simultaneously protecting core constitutional rights. Respondents' decision to re-detain Petitioner without such a hearing contravenes federal law and violates his procedural due process rights.

78. This arbitrary deprivation of liberty without a pre-deprivation hearing violates the constitutional requirement that detention be accompanied by due process safeguards. *See Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001) (holding that immigration detention is subject to constitutional limits); *Demore v. Kim*, 538 U.S. 510, 532 (2003) (emphasizing limited scope and justification for immigration detention).

79. By taking Petitioner back into custody without notice, new criminal convictions, or opportunity to be heard, Respondents deprived him of liberty in a manner inconsistent with due process and the fundamental fairness required by the Fifth Amendment.

COUNT THREE
Violation of Fifth Amendment Right to Substantive Due Process

80. The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein.

81. The Fifth Amendment's Due Process Clause not only guarantees procedural safeguards, but also protects individuals against governmental conduct that "shocks the conscience" or interferes with rights implicit in the concept of ordered liberty. *County of Sacramento v. Lewis*, 523 U.S. 833, 846–47 (1998).

82. Here, Petitioner had been affirmatively determined not to be a danger to the community or a flight risk upon his initial entry, when ICE conducted a custody review and issued paperwork releasing him on his own recognizance.

83. Despite these findings, Petitioner was re-detained without cause. This re-detention occurred without any new facts or changed circumstances that could justify depriving him of liberty.

84. The government's conduct is arbitrary and capricious, amounting to punishment rather than regulation. It transforms ICE's discretionary authority into an unchecked power to re-incarcerate noncitizens at will, untethered to legitimate governmental objectives.

85. By subjecting Petitioner to renewed detention without justification, Respondents violated Petitioner's substantive due process rights under the Fifth Amendment. *See Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001) (immigration detention is constitutionally limited and must bear a reasonable relation to its purposes); *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S. 71, 80 (1992) (continued confinement is impermissible absent a legitimate basis such as dangerousness or flight risk).

86. Respondents' actions shock the conscience because they reflect arbitrary government conduct that disregards both prior determinations and Petitioner's fundamental right to be free from unjustified physical confinement.

COUNT FOUR
Violation of the Bond Regulations

87. The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein.

88. In 1997, after Congress amended the INA through IIRIRA, EOIR and the then-Immigration and Naturalization Service issued an interim rule to interpret and apply IIRIRA. Specifically, under the heading of "Apprehension, Custody, and Detention of [Noncitizens]," the agencies explained that "[d]espite being applicants for admission, [noncitizens] who are present without having been admitted or paroled (formerly referred

to as [noncitizens] who entered without inspection) will be eligible for bond and bond redetermination." 62 Fed. Reg. at 10323 (emphasis added). The agencies thus made clear that individuals who were present without having been admitted or paroled were eligible for consideration for bond and bond hearings before IJs under 8 U.S.C. § 1226 and its implementing regulations.

89. Nonetheless, pursuant to *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, EOIR has a policy and practice of applying § 1225(b)(2) to individuals like Petitioner.

90. The application of § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued detention and violates 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1, 1236.1, and 1003.19.

COUNT FIVE
Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA")

91. The allegations in the above paragraphs are realleged and incorporated herein.

92. The Administrative Procedure Act ("APA") permits judicial review of final agency action for persons suffering legal wrong or adversely affected by such action. 5 U.S.C. §§ 702, 704.

93. In this case, Respondents have applied an agency interpretation and policy under which Petitioner—despite having already entered the United States, been placed in removal proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1229a, and previously released pursuant to an Order of Release on Recognizance issued under 8 U.S.C. § 1226—is now classified as subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and denied access to an individualized bond hearing.

94. That determination constitutes reviewable agency action because it reflects the consummation of Respondents' decision-making as to Petitioner's custody classification

and has immediate legal consequences for him, including continued detention and denial of bond review. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 704.

95. Respondents' application of § 1225(b)(2)(A) to Petitioner is contrary to law, in excess of statutory authority, and otherwise not in accordance with law. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A), (C). The INA's text, structure, and history establish that detention of noncitizens who are already present in the United States and are in removal proceedings under 8 U.S.C. § 1229a is governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1226, not § 1225(b)(2). Petitioner had already been processed, placed into proceedings, and released under § 1226(a). Respondents therefore lacked lawful authority to reclassify him as subject to mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A).

96. Respondents' action is also arbitrary and capricious. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A). Respondents departed from their prior treatment of Petitioner—who was released under § 1226(a)—without identifying any new facts, changed circumstances, violation of release conditions, or reasoned basis for treating him differently at the time of re-detention. Instead, Respondents relied on a categorical legal interpretation that conflicts with the statutory scheme and disregards Petitioner's prior custody determination.

97. Respondents' action is further unlawful because it denies Petitioner the custody review and bond procedures that apply under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and its implementing regulations, including 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1, 1236.1, and 1003.19. Agency action taken in derogation of governing statutes and regulations must be set aside. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A), (C), (D).

98. To the extent Respondents rely on the July 8, 2025 detention guidance or related agency policy to classify Petitioner under § 1225(b)(2)(A), that reliance is unlawful because the guidance effectively alters substantive detention consequences without notice-and-

comment rulemaking and without lawful statutory basis. *See* 5 U.S.C. §§ 553, 706(2)(A), (D).

99. Petitioner has suffered and continues to suffer concrete injury as a result of Respondents' unlawful agency action, including physical detention, denial of access to a bond hearing, separation from his community, and loss of liberty.

100. Respondents' unlawful reclassification of Petitioner's detention status have caused Petitioner concrete and ongoing injury, including prolonged physical detention, denial of access to bond proceedings, separation from his community, and deprivation of liberty without lawful process.

101. Petitioner's interests fall squarely within the zone of interests protected by the INA's detention and parole provisions and the APA, which are designed to regulate when and how DHS may detain, release, and re-detain noncitizens and to prevent arbitrary deprivation of liberty through procedurally defective custody determinations.

102. For all of these reasons, Respondents' actions are arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, contrary to law, and in excess of statutory authority, and must be set aside under 5 U.S.C. § 706(2).

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

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

1. Accept jurisdiction over this matter;
2. Order that Petitioner shall not be transferred outside the United States District Court for the District of Colorado while this habeas petition is pending;

3. Issue an Order to Show Cause pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2243, directing Respondents to show cause why the petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed by Petitioner should not be granted within three days;
4. Issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus requiring that Respondents release Petitioner immediately or, in the alternative, provide Petitioner with a bond hearing pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven days;
5. Order Respondents not to re-arrest or detain Petitioner under 28 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A);
6. Declare that Petitioner's detention is unlawful;
7. Award Petitioner attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), as amended, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and on any other basis justified under law; and
8. Grant any further relief this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

/s *Deliane Quiles*
Deliane Quiles, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 1044089
Gomez Quiles Law, PLLC
5000 SW 75th Ave., Suite 400
Miami, FL 33155
786.502.7615 Tel
Deliane@gomezquileslaw.com
Counsel for Petitioner

Dated: April 2, 2026

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2242

I represent Petitioner, Deepak Dahiya, and submit this verification on his behalf. I hereby verify that the factual statements made in the foregoing Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated this 2ND day of April 2026.

s/ *Deliane Quiles*
Deliane Quiles
Florida Bar No. 1044089