

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA
Civil No. 0:26-cv-00449-NEB-LIB

Hector Torres-Galvan,

Petitioner,

v.

Pamela Bondi, *et al.*,

Respondents.

**RESPONDENT'S
RESPONSE TO ORDER TO
SHOW CAUSE AND TO
PETITION FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS**

Hector Torres-Galvan (“Petitioner”) filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus on January 20, 2026 seeking immediate release from immigration detention. Federal Respondents¹ submit this response to the petition. The Court should deny Petitioner’s request for habeas relief because his detention is mandatory under 8 U.S.C. § 1225—he is not eligible for a bond hearing.

I. BACKGROUND

The following facts are taken from the petition. See ECF No. 1. Petitioner is a citizen and national of Mexico who entered the United States in 1999. ECF No. 1, ¶¶ 7, 12, 13. On January 19, 2026, Immigration officials detained him and commenced removal proceedings by issuing him an NTA charging removability as an alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled after inspection. ECF No. 1, ¶¶ 13, 15.² Petitioner filed this habeas petition on January 20, 2026. Federal Respondents now submit their

¹ This response is not submitted on behalf of any state authority.

² Federal Respondents do not admit any of the alleged details surrounding, or Petitioner’s characterization of, the arrest.

response.

II. ARGUMENT

The parties' disagreement in this case comes down to whether Petitioner is detained under § 1225 or § 1226 of Title 8 of the U.S. Code. ICE says it's § 1225, which governs the detention of noncitizens who are "applicants for admission." 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(3). Congress says so as well, expressly directing that noncitizens like Petitioner "shall be deemed for purposes of this chapter an applicant for admission" and then detained pursuant to § 1225(b)(1) or § 1225(b)(2). *Id.* § 1225(a)(1). Recently, Judge Magnuson agreed. *See Arturo v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-00102 (PAM/SGE), ECF No. 6 (D. Minn. January 22, 2026); *Jose C. v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv- 135 (PAM/DTS), ECF No. 14 (D. Minn. January 20, 2026); *Bidye M. v. Kandiyohi County Jail, et al.*, Civ. No. 25-4791 PAM/EMB, ECF. No. 10 (D. Minn. January 16, 2016); *Abdirahmaan G. v. Noem*, No. 26-cv-34 (PAM/SGE), ECF No. 7 (D. Minn. Jan. 14, 2026). Based on a straightforward reading of these statutes, Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2).

A. Mandatory Detention under § 1225

Petitioner thinks he is subject to detention under § 1226 rather than under § 1225. The Court is familiar with this issue by now and has already ruled on the government's arguments for holding that detention under these circumstances is appropriately characterized as mandatory detention pursuant to § 1225. *See, e.g., Eliseo A.A. v. Olson*, No. 25-cv-3381 (JWB/DJF), 2025 WL 2886729 (D. Minn. Oct. 8, 2025) or *Mayamu K. v. Bondi*, No. 25-3035 (JWB/LIB), 2025 WL 3641819 (D. Minn. Oct. 20, 2025). Although the Eighth Circuit is poised to weigh in soon, *see Avila v. Bondi*, No. 25-3248 (8th Cir.

docketed Nov. 10, 2025), Federal Respondents acknowledge this case presents similar legal and factual issues to prior habeas petitions.

Rather than belabor these proceedings further by re-arguing points the Court has already considered and rejected, Federal Respondents will summarize the legal basis for the government's interpretation. Federal Respondents request that the Court note the arguments made below and in the above-cited cases and hold that they are preserved for appeal.

B. Additional Authority

Courts across the country have agreed with the government's interpretation of § 1225 in dozens of factually similar cases. *See, e.g., Arturo v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-00102 (PAM/SGE), ECF No. 6 (D. Minn. January 22, 2026; *Jose C. v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-135 (PAM/DTS), ECF No. 14 (D. Minn. January 20, 2026); *Bidy M. v. Kandiyohi County Jail, et al.*, Civ. No. 25-4791 PAM/EMB, ECF. No. 10 (D. Minn. January 16, 2016); *Abdirahmaan G. v. Noem*, No. 26-cv-34 (PAM/SGE), ECF No. 7 (D. Minn. Jan. 14, 2026); *Cruz Rodriguez v. Olson*, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2026 WL 63613, *2, *5-8 (N.D. Ill. 2026); *Singh v. Noem*, 2026 WL 74558, *1-6 (E.D. Ky. Jan. 9, 2026); *Naikpay v. Sukkar*, No. 2:25-cv-1167-KCD-DNF, 2026 WL 44820, *1 (M.D. Fla. Jan. 7, 2026); *Zakinyan v. Warden*, No. 25-CV-3717 JLS (MMP), 2026 WL 36081, *3 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 6, 2026); *Gomez Hernandez v. Lyons*, 2026 WL 31775, *1-5 (N.D. Tex. Jan. 6, 2026); *Alfonso Parra v. Secretary, Department of Homeland Security*, No. 2:25-cv-1116-KCD-DNF, 2026 WL 21243, * (M.D. Fla. Jan. 5, 2026);

Calderon Lopez v. Lyons, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2026 WL 44683, *1, *4-8 (N.D. Tex. 2026); *Lopez v. Ladwig*, No. 6:25-cv-01884, 2026 WL 19095, *4 (W.D. La. Jan. 2, 2026); *Zuniga v. Lyons*, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, No. 1:25-CV-221-H, 2025 WL 3755126, *1, *3-7 (N.D. Tex. 2025); *Rodriguez v. Jeffreys*, 8:25CV714, 2025 WL 3754411, *11-14 (D. Neb. Dec. 29, 2025); *Montoya v. Holt*, CIV-25-01231-JD, 2025 WL 3733302, *6-10 (W.D. Okla. Dec. 26, 2025); *Lucero v. Field Office Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations*, No. 1:25-cv-823, 2025 WL 3718730, 2025 WL 3718730, *1-6 (S.D. Ohio Dec. 23, 2025); *A.M. v. Joyce*, No. 2:25-cv-00615-LEW, 2025 WL 3706922, *1,*4-5 (D. Me. Dec. 22, 2025); *De La Torre v. Lyons*, No. 1:25-cv-01516-DJC-CSK, 2025 WL 3704448, *2 (E.D. Cal. Dec. 22, 2025); *Calderon Lopez v. Lyons*, No. 1:25-CV-226-H, 2025 WL 3683918 (N.D. Tex. Dec. 19, 2025); *Urbina Zapata v. Chestnut*, No. 1:25-cv-01922-WBS-CKD, 2025 WL 3687643 (E.D. Cal. Dec. 19, 2025); *E.R.J.B. v. Wofford*, No. 1:25-cv-01843-WBS-SCR, 2025 WL 3683118 (E.D. Cal. Dec. 18, 2025); *Romero Rebolledo v. Chestnut*, No. 1:25-cv-01904-WS-CKD, 2025 WL 3683122 (E.D. Cal. Dec. 18, 2025); *Liang v. Almodovar*, No. 1:25-cv-09322-MKV, 2025 WL 3641512 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 15, 2025); *Pablo Coronado v. Secretary, DHS*, No. 1:25-cv-831, 2025 WL 3628229 (S.D. Ohio Dec. 15, 2025); *P.B. v. Bergami*, No. 3:25-cv-02978-O, 2025 WL 3632752 (N.D. Tex. Dec. 13, 2025); *Yanyun Mo v. Chestnut*, No. 1:25-cv-01789 WBS CSK, 2025 WL 3539063 (E.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2025); *Ugarte-Arenas v. Olson*,

No. 25-C-1721, 2025 WL 3514451 (E.D. Wis. Dec. 8, 2025); *Melgar v. Bondi, et al.*, No. 8:25CV555, 2025 WL 3496721 (D. Neb. Dec. 5, 2025); *Chen v. Almodovar*, No. 1:25-cv-8350, 2025 WL 3484855 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 4, 2025); *Candido v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-867 (JLS), 2025 WL 7484932, (W.D.N.Y. Dec. 4, 2025); *Topal v. Bondi*, No. 1:25-CV-01612 (SEC P), 2025 WL 3486894 (W.D. La. Dec. 3, 2025); *Hernandez Cruz v. Noem*, No. 8:2-cv-02566-SB-MAA, 2025 WL 3482630 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 2, 2025); *Suarez v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-202-JMD, 2025 WL 3312168 (E.D. Mo. Nov. 28, 2025); *Maceda Jimenez v. Thompson*, No. 4:25-cv-05025, 2025 WL 3265493 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 24, 2025); *Alves De Andrade v. Patterson*, No. 6:25-cv-01695, 2025 WL 3252707 (W.D. La. Nov. 21, 2025); *Valencia v. Chestnut*, No. 1:25-CV-01550 WBS JDP, 2025 WL 3205133 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 17, 2025); *Alonzo v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-01519 WBS SCR, 2025 WL 3208284 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 17, 2025); *Cabanas v. Bondi*, No. 4:25-cv-04830, 2025 WL 3171331 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 13, 2025); *Ramos v. Lyons*, No. 2:25-cv-09785-SVW-AJR, 2025 WL 3199872, 2025 LX 568700 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 12, 2025); *Mejia Olalde v. Noem*, No. 1:25-CV-00168-JMD, 2025 WL 3131942 (E.D. Mo. Nov. 10, 2025); *Oliveira v. Patterson*, No. 6:25-CV-01463, 2025 WL 3095972 (W.D. La. Nov. 4, 2025); *Sandoval v. Acuna*, No. 6:25-cv-01467, 2025 WL 3048926 (W.D. La. Oct. 31, 2025); *Rojas v. Olson*, No. 25-cv-1437, 2025 WL 3033967 (E.D. Wis. Oct. 30, 2025); *Garibay-Robledo v. Noem*, No. 1:25-CV-177, 2025 WL 3264478 (N.D. Tex. Oct. 24, 2025); *Vargas*

Lopez v. Trump, --- F.Supp.3d ---, 2025 WL 2780351 (D. Neb. Sept. 30, 2025); *Chavez v. Noem*, No. 3:25-CV-02325, 2025 WL 2730228 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 24, 2025); *Pipa-Aquise v. Bondi*, No. 1:25-cv-01094-MSN-WBP, 2025 WL 2490657 (E.D. Va. Aug. 5, 2025).

As noted, Judge Magnuson agreed. *See Arturo v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-00102 (PAM/SGE), ECF No. 6 (D. Minn. January 22, 2026; *Jose C. v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv- 135 (PAM/DTS), ECF No. 14 (D. Minn. January 20, 2026); *Bidy M. v. Kandiyohi County Jail, et al.*, Civ. No. 25-4791 PAM/EMB, ECF. No. 10 (D. Minn. January 16, 2016); *Abdirahman G v. Noem*, Civ. No. 26-cv-34 PAM/SGE, ECF No. 7 (D. Minn. January 14, 2026). In those cases, Judge Magnuson denied habeas petitions in similar cases largely based on the position advocated by the Government. And, Judge Tostrud recently observed there are “reasons to question” the majority view, that the “statutory-interpretation issue is difficult and close,” and that courts reaching the opposite conclusion have done so “reasonably.” *Ahmed M. v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-4711 (ECT/SGE), Doc. No. 8 at 2, 2026 WL 25627, *1 (Jan. 5, 2026); *see also Hector G. v. Lyons*, No. 25-cv-4710 (PJS/EMB), Doc. No. 9 (Dec. 30, 2025 Order) (“Respondents’ argument has some force.”). The Government understands that taking a fresh look at this statutory scheme is no small task. “The complex provisions of the INA have provoked comparisons to a morass, a Gordian knot, and King Minos’s labyrinth in ancient Crete. . . . Divining its meaning is ordinarily not for the faint of heart.” *Torres v. Barr*, 976 F.3d 918, 923 (9th Cir. 2020) (en banc) (cleaned up).

However, given the importance of the question and recent developments in the caselaw, the United States once again respectfully urges this Court to revisit the majority approach and give serious consideration to the Government’s view of the law as set forth in this response and, particularly, in other recent cases such as *Hector G.* where more complete briefing has been presented. *See Sandoval*, 2025 WL 3048926, at *6 (noting “many of the[] cases” taking the majority position did so “before—or soon after—the BIA issued its opinion in” *Hurtado*). And, Respondents emphasize that courts within the Eighth Circuit agree with the government’s arguments. *See, e.g., Melgar v. Bondi, et al.*, 2025 WL 3496721 (D. Neb. Dec. 5, 2025); *Suarez v. Noem*, 2025 WL 3312168 (E.D. Mo. Nov. 28, 2025); *Mejia Olalde v. Noem*, 2025 WL 3131942 (E.D. Mo. Nov. 10, 2025); *Vargas Lopez v. Trump*, 2025 WL 2780351 (D. Neb. Sept. 30, 2025). In particular, the District of Nebraska’s decision in *Melgar* comprehensively and persuasively analyzes the text of § 1225 and § 1226 before concluding that a habeas petition like the one filed in this case failed on the merits because the petitioner was properly detained under § 1225. Federal Respondents contend that this authority justifies revisiting the Court’s earlier decisions on the § 1225/1226 issue presented in this petition.

C. Mandatory Detention under § 1225

The Court should uphold Petitioner’s mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2). Petitioner is a noncitizen present in the United States who is in removal proceedings. He is “deemed” to be an “applicant for admission” under § 1225(a)(1). He falls under the statute’s “catchall provision”—paragraph (b)(2)—a noncitizen like Petitioner who is

deemed an applicant for admission and who is not subject to paragraph (b)(1) must be detained during removal proceedings. *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 287 (2018).

Petitioner claims that, because he has remained in the United States since 1999, he cannot be “seeking admission,” and thus he is not subject to § 1225(b)(2)(A)’s requirements. While a number courts have adopted this view, the Court should reject it for the same reasons Judge Magnuson rejected it. See *Jose C. v. Bondi*, No. 26-cv-135 (PAM/DTS). According to Judge Magnuson, “[t]he text of § 1225(b)(2)(A) is clear that a noncitizen who is an “applicant for admission” is necessarily “seeking admission.” *Id.*, ECF No. 14, Slip Op. at 3, citing *Vargas Lopez v. Trump*, No. 8:25CV526, 2025 WL 2780351, at *9 (D. Neb. Sept. 30, 2025). According to Judge Magnuson, “the law dictates that an alien’s mere presence in the United States without lawful admission means that he or she is seeking admission ‘by operation of law.’” *Id.*, ECF No. 14, Slip Op. at 4, citing *Matter of Lemus-Losa*, 25 I & N Dec. 734, 743 n. 6 (BIA 2012). Therefore, Judge Magnuson concluded that, as a matter of law, “Respondents may lawfully detain Petitioner under § 1225(b)(2)...Thus, as a matter of law, Petitioner is not entitled to a bond hearing.” *Id.*, ECF No. 14, Slip Op. at 4-5.

If that were not enough, Judge Magnuson added, “as a practical matter, the act of evading removal from the United States, rather than voluntarily deporting, is an affirmative act that the alien is ‘seeking admission.’” *Id.*, ECF No. 14, Slip Op. at 5, citing *Chen*, 2025 WL 3484855, at *6 (“If actively ‘seeking admission’ is a distinct requirement for mandatory detention pursuant to § 1225, seeking asylum is ‘seeking admission,’ within the

meaning of the statute, since ‘admission’ is defined in terms of ‘lawful’ status, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(13)(A), not physical presence on U.S. soil.”); 8 U.S.C § 1101(a)(13)(A) (“The terms ‘admission’ and ‘admitted’ mean, with respect to an alien, the lawful entry of the alien into the United States after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer.”). *Id.*, ECF No. 14, Slip Op. at 5.

Judge Magnuson determined “that the growing minority of district courts to reject Petitioner’s argument are correct.” *Id.*, ECF No. 14, Slip Op. at 4, citing *Lopez v. Ladwig*, No. 6:25-CV-01884, 2026 WL 19095, (W.D. La. Jan. 2, 2026); *Melgar v. Bondi*, No. 8:25CV555, 2025 WL 3496721, (D. Neb. Dec. 5, 2025); *Chen v. Almodovar*, No. 1:25-CV-8350-MKV, 2025 WL 3484855, (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 4, 2025); *Mejia Olalde*, 2025 WL 3131942; *Chavez v. Noem*, No. 3:25-CV-02325-CAB-SBC, 2025 WL 2730228, (S.D. Cal. Sept. 24, 2025).

For these and other reasons, this Court should follow Judge Magnuson’s lead, adopt his reading of the statute, and join the growing minority of the courts that have held detention under § 1225(b)(2) is appropriate under the circumstances of Petitioner’s case.

The Court should reject Petitioner’s request to recast his detention as arising under § 1226, for reasons that are evident from the text, context, and structure of the statutes at issue.

First, Petitioner’s argument is contrary to § 1225’s plain text, which “deem[s]” people who are already “present in the United States” without admission to be applicants

for admission. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1). Although paragraph (b)(1) applies to those “arriving” in the United States and other more recent arrivals, paragraph (b)(2) is not so limited and applies instead to any “other” noncitizen “who is an applicant for admission.” *Compare id.* § 1225(b)(1)(A)(i), *with id.* § 1225(b)(2)(A); *accord Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 287. The term “seeking admission” does not implicitly narrow this provision to just those applicants for admission who are “arriving” at the border. Such an interpretation would render paragraph (b)(2) essentially redundant of (b)(1). Rather, (b)(2) includes all people deemed to be applicants for admission who are not already covered by paragraph (b)(1).

Second, the context of § 1225’s passage in a 1996 reform package shows Congress intended to place noncitizens who are present without admission on equal footing with those who are apprehended upon arrival. Before the current version of § 1225 was enacted, under the entry doctrine, inadmissible noncitizens who successfully evaded apprehension and gained entry enjoyed greater rights than those who were found inadmissible after appearing for inspection. *Torres v. Barr*, 976 F.3d 918, 928 (9th Cir. 2020) (en banc) (explaining history of § 1225), *declined to extend by United States v. Gambino-Ruiz*, 91 F.4th 981 (9th Cir. 2024). But Congress did away with the distinction by, among other changes, deeming both categories to be treated as applicants for admission in § 1225(a) and treating them similarly in § 1225(b). Interpreting § 1225(b) to turn on physical entry rather than lawful admission after inspection would reinvigorate the entry doctrine, contrary to Congress’s legislative efforts.

Third, Petitioner’s approach contradicts the structure of the statute, both within § 1225 itself and between § 1225 and § 1226. Section 1225(b) divides applicants for

admission between two subparagraphs: (b)(1) for those applicants for admission who are arriving, and (b)(2) for “other” applicants for admission. Section 1225(b) treats all “applicants for admission”—whether arriving or already present—as mandatory detainees under either (b)(1) or (b)(2), unlike admitted noncitizens who are subject to discretionary detention and allowed bond under § 1226.

Based on § 1225’s plain text, context, and structure, the Court should hold Petitioner is properly subject to mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2).³

III. Remedy

If the Court determines that Petitioner is detained under § 1226(a) and not under § 1225(b)(2), then the appropriate remedy is to order a custody redetermination hearing instead of immediate release. That approach would “comport[] with the general rule that ‘the scope of injunctive relief is dictated by the extent of the violation established’ and should be ‘no more burdensome to the defendant than necessary to provide complete relief to the plaintiff.’” *Roberto M.F. v. Olson*, 2025 WL 3524455, at *5 (D. Minn. Dec. 9, 2025) (alterations omitted) (quoting *Nebraska v. Biden*, 52 F.4th 1044, 1048 (8th Cir. 2022)); see also *Trump v. CASA, Inc.*, 606 U.S. 831, 861 (2025) (staying preliminary injunctions “to the extent that the injunctions are broader than necessary to provide complete relief to each plaintiff with standing to sue”). The result of this rule is that “[m]ost courts confronting claims analogous to” those raised by Petitioner “order a bond hearing, not immediate

³ Petitioner’s other arguments, based on Due Process (Count I) and the Administrative Procedure Act (Count III) are not well-developed and seem to turn on the same statutory question in any event.

release, as a remedy.” *Roberto M.F.*, 2025 WL 3524455, at *5 (collecting authority). Petitioner should not obtain a different outcome here.

Under Petitioner’s theory, he is not subject to expedited removal proceedings and not subject to detention under any provision of § 1225. If he is correct, then he would have to be subject to discretionary detention under § 1226(a). But § 1226(a) does not grant “any right to release on bond.” *Matter of D-J-*, 23 I. & N. Dec. 572, 575 (original emphasis) (citing *Carlson v. Landon*, 342 U.S. 524, 534 (1952)). Instead, the statute provides that the government “*may* release the [noncitizen] on . . . bond of *at least* \$1,500” or on conditional parole. 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)(2) (emphasis added). Under this plain text, posting bond of “at least \$1,500” is a condition precedent to release. *Id.* And whether a person is entitled to release on bond in the first place depends on his ability to prove he “is not a danger to the community or a flight risk.” *Miranda v. Garland*, 34 F.4th 338, 347 (4th Cir. 2022). Petitioner is not entitled to an order of immediate release from this Court, unmediated by the immigration court procedures ordinarily applicable to custody redetermination proceedings under § 1226(a). *See Santos M.C.*, 2025 WL 3281787, at *4 (granting bond hearing and denying immediate release).

IV. Evidentiary Hearing

Respondents believe the Court can rule on this petition without holding an evidentiary hearing. The facts are not likely to be disputed, and the only issues before the Court are ones of legal interpretation capable of resolution on the parties’ submissions.

V. CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, Respondents respectfully request that the Court deny this habeas petition. Should the Court be disposed not to deny the petition outright, the Court should enter an Order that Respondents shall afford Petitioner a bond hearing and if Petitioner makes bond, the release shall also include the other conditions Respondents ordinarily require under these circumstances.

Dated: January 22, 2026

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