UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

J.B.C.O., *et al.*,

Petitioner,

v.

Pamela Bondi, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Civil No. 0:26-cv-00424-JRT-DJF

DECLARATION OF RALPH FERGUSON

S.M.,

Petitioner,

v.

Pam Bondi, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Civil No. 0:26-cv-00639-JRT-DTS

Christian Alexander Sun Chajon,

Petitioner,

v.

Pamela Bondi, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Civil No. 0:26-cv-00778-JRT-LIB

Rosmary Narvaez Alvarez,

Petitioner,

v.

Civil No. 0:26-cv-00832-JRT-JFD

David Easterwood, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Riky Alexis Morales Lopez,

Petitioner,

v.

Pamela Bondi, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Civil No. 0:26-cv-01429-JRT-JFD

I, Ralph Ferguson, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and in my official capacity, hereby declare the following:

1. I am the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removals Operations (ERO) acting Assistant Director for the Operations Support Division. In this role, I oversee the Human Resources Management Division, Mission Support Division, and Fiscal Management.
2. I joined ICE in 2016 as a Supervisory Accountant. I was assigned to ERO in 2017 and served in several supervisory positions within ERO from 2019 to the present. In 2024, I was promoted to the position of ERO's Deputy Assistant Director of the Fiscal Management Division. On January 2, 2025, I was promoted to be the Acting Assistant Director of ERO Operations Support.
3. I am aware of and have read the Court's March 6, 2026 Order for this matter. Specifically, that within 30 days the Respondents shall facilitate and reimburse all

Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) claims submitted by Petitioners. I am also aware that three Petitioners submitted FTCA claims on March 11, 2026.

4. Under typical circumstances, FTCA claims that have been adjudicated as meritorious by an agency within the statutory period of six months and are under $2,500.00 are paid by federal agencies with the agency's own appropriations. 28 U.S.C. §2672; 28 C.F.R. § 14.10(a). Meritorious claims over $2,500 must be presented to the United States Department of the Treasury to be paid.

5. As of today, April 3, 2026, the Department of Homeland Security, including ICE, is subject to a lapse in annual appropriations as Congress has failed to pass an annual appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

6. Given the lapse in annual appropriations, a significant portion of the DHS mission support workforce is currently furloughed. This includes personnel within the Office of Financial Management, which would typically process claims for reimbursement.

7. Due to staff furloughs at the Office of Financial Management, personnel responsible for processing and approving financial actions have been placed on temporary unpaid leave. As a result, the office is operating with significantly reduced staffing levels. This has caused unavoidable delays in the completion of financial processes and transactions, as there are insufficient resources available to maintain normal operations. The delays will persist until furloughed staff are able to return and resume their duties.

8. On July 4, 2025, Congress passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OB3), Pub. L. 119-21, 139 Stat 72, Section 90003 (July 4, 2025), which provided DHS with supplemental appropriations for particular purposes. OB3 Section 90003 provides

in relevant part appropriations for alien detention, which, at this time, ICE has determined are available to pay claims for reimbursement related to detention of these individual claimants.

9. Given the Court's March 6, 2026 Order, I will personally work with ICE's Chief Financial Officer to reimburse the relevant Petitioners pursuant to the court's order. The reimbursement process will likely take at least 15 business days upon receipt of each claimant's banking information.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed this 3rd day of April 2026.

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Ralph Ferguson
Acting Assistant Director, Operations Support Division
Enforcement and Removal Operations
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement