

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

**Mirian E. Menjivar Sanchez v. Minga Wofford, Warden, Mesa Verde
Immigrant Processing Center; Nancy Gonzalez, Acting Director of
Bakersfield, CA Field Office, U.S. Immigration & Customs
Enforcement; Kristi Noem, Secretary of the U.S. Department of
Homeland Security; and Pamela Bondi, Attorney General of the
United States**

Sanchez v. Wofford · No. 1:25-cv-01187-SKO (HC) · Decided November 5, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California converts a previously issued temporary restraining order into a preliminary injunction in an immigration detainee's habeas action. The court holds that 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b) does not apply to the petitioner, who entered the United States approximately twenty years earlier and was detained under § 1226(a), and grants injunctive relief concerning her release and detention conditions.

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 6 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 7 8
9 10 11 MIRIAN E. MENJIVAR SANCHEZ,) Case No.: 1:25-cv-01187-SKO (HC)) 12
Petitioner,)) ORDER CONVERTING MOTION FOR 13 v.) TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
ORDER TO 14 MINGA WOFFORD, Warden, Mesa Verde) MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION Immigrant Processing Center; NANCY) AND GRANTING PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION 15 GONZALEZ, Acting Director of Bakersfield,) CA Field Office, U.S.
Immigration & Customs) (Doc.

12) 16 Enforcement; KRISTI NOEM, Secretary of) the U.S. Department of Homeland Security;)
17 and PAMELA BONDI, Attorney General of) the United States,) 18) Respondents.) 19) 20
21 Petitioner Miriam E. Menjivar Sanchez is an immigration detainee proceeding with counsel 22
with a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. All parties having
consented to 23 the jurisdiction of the Magistrate Judge, on September 26, 2025, the case was
assigned to the 24 undersigned for all purposes, including trial and entry of final judgment.

(Doc. 18.) 25 On October 17, 2025, the Court granted Petitioner's motion for temporary
restraining order. 26 (Doc. 23.) The Government was ordered to immediately release Petitioner on

a \$3,000 bond issued by 27 the Immigration Judge (“IJ”) at the initial custody hearing.

The parties were also directed to file a 28 1 stipulation to convert the temporary restraining order into a preliminary injunction based on the prior 2 submissions of the parties or advise the Court that the parties wished to provide additional briefing. 3 On October 24, 2025, Petitioner filed a request to submit additional briefing along with a 4 supplemental brief.

(Doc. 24.) According to Petitioner, she posted bond on October 20, 2025, and was 5 released from custody. However, the Government conditioned the release on Petitioner wearing an 6 ankle monitor. Petitioner noted that neither the IJ nor the Court imposed this additional requirement. 7 Petitioner requests that any additional restrictions, including the wearing of an ankle monitor, not be 8 imposed unless such monitoring is determined to be necessary at a later custody hearing.

In addition, 9 Petitioner requests that the preliminary injunction include the provision that Petitioner not be detained 10 unless Respondent demonstrates, by clear and convincing evidence, that Petitioner is a flight risk or 11 danger to the community such that her physical custody is required. 12 On October 27, 2025, the Court granted Petitioner’s request and directed Respondent to file a 13 responsive brief.

(Doc. 25.) On November 5, 2025, Respondent filed a responsive brief. (Doc. 26.) 14 Respondent does not oppose converting the order into a preliminary injunction but opposes removing 15 the electronic monitoring now in place. Respondent requests that the issue of electronic monitoring be 16 referred to the IJ for decision. 17 For reasons discussed below, the Court will convert the temporary restraining order into a 18 preliminary injunction and grant injunctive relief.

19 BACKGROUND 20 Petitioner is a 44-year-old citizen of El Salvador who entered the United States without 21 admission in January 2005. (Doc. 20-1 at 6.) She was briefly detained approximately 10-15 days and 22 released on her own recognizance. (Doc. 20-1 at 7.)

On January 26, 2005, Petitioner signed a Form I- 23 220A in which she agreed to report in writing or in person to an immigration officer at the San 24 Antonio, Texas, office on the 1st Tuesday of the month. (Doc. 20-1 at 9.) Respondent submits that 25 Petitioner did not do so either in Texas or in any California immigration office.

In September of 2005, 26 Petitioner was ordered removed in abstentia. (Doc. 20-1 at 11-13.) Petitioner states she was unaware 27 of immigration court proceedings because she was in an abusive relationship and was unable to 28 receive her mail. (Doc. 1-1 at 1.) 1 For the past twenty years, Petitioner has resided primarily in Santa Rosa, California. (Doc. 12- 2 1 at 16.)

She has three children ages 19, 18, and 12. (Doc. 12-1 at 16.) She suffers from diabetes and is 3 dependent on insulin. (Doc 12-1 at 16.) Prior to her detention, she was being treated with twice-a-day 4 injections of insulin and the oral medication Metformin. (Doc. 1-1 at 2.) 5 On June 18,

2025, Petitioner was arrested by ICE officers outside of the dental office she had been cleaning while employed by a janitorial service.

(Doc. 20-1 at 19-20.) She was taken into custody and transported to the Mesa Verde Detention Center where she has since remained in custody. (Doc. 8 20-1 at 19-20.) In that time, Petitioner has been transported to the Bakersfield hospital on three occasions due to uncontrolled hyperglycemia. (Doc. 1-1 at 2.) According to Petitioner, she is often only given one injection per day and her blood sugar has risen to very high levels.

(Doc. 1-1 at 2.) Counsel for Petitioner states he made a request with the ICE Field Office for humanitarian parole based on Petitioner's health condition. (Doc. 1-1 at 2.) The request was not granted or denied, but Counsel was told Petitioner was receiving appropriate care. (Doc. 1-1 at 2.) On June 18, 2025, a motion to reopen removal proceedings was filed.

(Doc. 20-1 at 18-20.) On July 8, 2025, the Immigration Court granted the request. (Doc. 1-7.) On August 25, 2025, the IJ determined that Petitioner was detained under the authority of 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), not 8 U.S.C. § 1225. (Doc. 1-2 at 1-3.)

The IJ weighed the evidence of danger to the community and flight risk and determined that Petitioner was not a danger and only a minimal flight risk. (Doc. 1-2 at 1-3.) The IJ granted Petitioner conditional release on a \$3,000 bond. (Doc. 1-2 at 1.) The Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") then filed a notice of intent to appeal which triggered an automatic stay.

(Doc. 1-4 at 1.) On September 11, 2025, the IJ reversed the decision to grant conditional release. (Doc. 20-1 at 24 22.) The IJ noted that the recent Bureau of Immigration Appeals ("BIA") decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025) deprived the IJ of the authority to set bond for Petitioner's release. (Doc. 20-1 at 22.) On October 17, 2025, the Court granted Petitioner's motion for temporary restraining order.

2 (Doc. 23.) Petitioner was released from custody on a \$3,000 bond, and as a condition of release, an electronic ankle monitoring device was placed on Petitioner. 4 DISCUSSION 5 I. Legal Standard 6 The standards for issuing a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction are 7 "substantially identical." See *Stuhlbarg Int'l Sales Co. v. John D. Bush & Co.*, 240 F.3d 832, 839 n.7 8 (9th Cir.

2001). "A preliminary injunction is an extraordinary remedy never awarded as of right." 9 *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 24 (2008) (citing *Munaf v. Geren*, 553 U.S. 674, 10 689–90 (2008)). "A plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must establish that he is likely to 11 succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief, 12 that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that an injunction is in the public interest." *Id.* at 20 13 (citing *Munaf*, 553 U.S. at 689–90; *Amoco Prod.*

Co. v. Vill. of Gambell, AK, 480 U.S. 531, 542 14 (1987); Weinberger v. Romero-Barcelo, 456 U.S. 305, 311–12 (1982)). “Likelihood of success on the 15 merits is a threshold inquiry and is the most important factor.” Simon v. City & Cnty. of San Francisco, 135 F.4th 784, 797 (9th Cir. 2025) (quoting Env’t Prot. Info. Ctr. v. Carlson, 968 F.3d 985, 17 989 (9th Cir.

2020)). “[I]f a plaintiff can only show that there are serious questions going to the 18 merits—a lesser showing than likelihood of success on the merits—then a preliminary injunction may 19 still issue if the balance of hardships tips sharply in the plaintiff’s favor, and the other two Winter 20 factors are satisfied.” Friends of the Wild Swan v. Weber, 767 F.3d 936, 942 (9th Cir.

2014) (internal 21 quotation marks and citations omitted). 22 ///// 23 ///// 24 ///// 25 ///// 26 ///// 27
///// 28 1 II. Likelihood of Success on the Merits1 2 Petitioner contends that the immigration judge erred in reversing her earlier decision to 3 conditionally release Petitioner, concluding that Petitioner is mandatorily detained pursuant to 8 4 U.S.C. § 1225(b) rather than § 1226.

(Doc. 1 at 3.) This case is one of statutory interpretation, and the 5 Court’s analysis begins with the text of the statute. See Lackey v. Stinnie, 604 U.S. 192, 199 (2025). 6 A. Statutory Framework 7 Two statutory sections govern the detention of noncitizens prior to a final order of removal: 8 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225 and 1226. Section 1225 governs the detention of noncitizens seeking admission into 9 the United States.

See Jennings v. Rodriguez, 583 U.S. 281, 289 (2018). As relevant here, section 10 1225(b)(2)(A) provides that “in the case of an alien who is an applicant for admission, if the 11 examining immigration officer determines that an alien seeking admission is not clearly and beyond a 12 doubt entitled to be admitted, the alien shall be detained for a proceeding under section 1229a of this 13 title.” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). “A noncitizen detained under [s]ection 1225(b)(2) may be released 14 only if he is paroled ‘for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit’ pursuant to 8 15 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A).” Gomes v. Hyde, 25 Civ.

11571, 2025 WL 1869299, at *2 (D. Mass. July 7, 16 2025). “Other than this limited exception[,],... detention under § 1225(b)(2) is considered mandatory. 17.. [and] [i]ndividuals detained under § 1225 are not entitled to a bond hearing.” Lopez Benitez v. 18 Francis, No. 25 CIV. 5937 (DEH), 2025 WL 2371588, at *3 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 13, 2025). Further, under 19 § 1225(b)(2)(A), detention is mandatory “until removal proceedings have concluded.” 20 While section 1225 “authorizes the Government to detain certain aliens seeking admission into 21 the country,” section 1226 “authorizes the Government to detain certain aliens already in the country 22 pending the outcome of removal proceedings.” Jennings, 583 U.S. at 289 (emphasis added).

Section 23 1226(a) sets out the “default rule” for noncitizens already present in the country. Id. at 288. It 24 provides: 25 26 27 1 Recently, Judge Sherriff issued an order granting a preliminary

injunction in a separate case, *Lepe v. Andrews*, 25-cv-01163-KES-SKO (E.D. Cal. Sept. 23, 2025).

The *Lepe* case presents the same issue. The Court agrees with that decision and discussion of the *Winter* factors will borrow largely from the *Lepe* decision. 1 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.... [T]he Attorney 2 General-- (1) may continue to detain the arrested alien; and 3 (2) may release the alien on-- (A) bond...; or 4 (B) conditional parole....

5 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). “Section 1226(a), therefore, establishes a discretionary detention framework.” 6 *Lopez Benitez*, 2025 WL 2371588, at *3 (internal citations omitted). An immigration officer makes 7 the initial determination to either detain or release the noncitizen, but after that decision has been 8 made, the noncitizen may request a bond hearing before an immigration judge.

8 C.F.R. § 9 1236.1(c)(8), (d)(1). At any such bond hearing, “the burden is on the non-citizen to ‘establish to the 10 satisfaction of the Immigration Judge... that he or she does not present a danger to persons or 11 property, is not a threat to the national security, and does not pose a risk of flight.’” *Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d 976, 982 (9th Cir.

2017) (citing *In re Guerra*, 24 I. & N. Dec. 37, 38 (BIA 2006)). 13 In this case, the IJ initially determined that Petitioner was being detained under Section 1226. 14 The IJ found Petitioner did not present a risk of danger to the public and was only a minimal flight 15 risk.

Accordingly, the IJ granted conditional release on posting of a \$3,000 bond. As noted above, the 16 IJ subsequently reversed her decision finding Petitioner ineligible for release after determining 17 Petitioner was detained under § 1225(b). 18 B. Section 1225(b) Does Not Apply to Petitioner. 19 The government contends that the applicable detention authority in this case is section 1225(b), 20 as the immigration judge concluded, because Petitioner is an “applicant for admission.” (Doc.

20 at 9- 21 17.) The statute defines an “applicant for admission” as “[a]n alien present in the United States who 22 has not been admitted or who arrives in the United States (whether or not at a designated port of 23 arrival and including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in 24 international or United States waters).” 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(1).

For support, the government relies 25 primarily on a recent decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals (“BIA”), *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 26 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025). (Doc. 20 at 18-20.) In that case, the BIA held that noncitizens 27 who are present in the United States without admission and are arrested on a warrant are subject to 28 section 1225(b)(2)(A).

Matter of Yajure Hurtado, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (B.I.A. 2025). 1 This Court is not bound by the BIA’s interpretation of sections 1225 and 1226. A federal court 2 “may look to [the BIA’s] interpretations

[of the INA] for guidance, but [must not] defer to the agency. 3 *Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369, 394, 413 (2024).

For reasons that follow, the Court 4 finds Yajure Hurtado unpersuasive. 5 The government’s argument that section 1225(b) applies to all noncitizens present in the 6 United States without admission is implausible. The government’s proposed interpretation of the 7 statute (1) disregards the plain meaning of section 1225(b)(2)(A); (2) disregards the relationship 8 between sections 1225 and 1226; (3) would render a recent amendment to section 1226(c) superfluous; 9 and (4) is inconsistent with decades of prior statutory interpretation and practice.

As previously noted, 10 this Court reached this conclusion in *Guerrero Lepe v. Andrews*, 25-cv-01163-KES-SKO (E.D. Ca. 11 Sept. 23, 2025). Other district courts have also reached a similar conclusion. See, e.g., *Lopez Benitez 12 v. Francis*, No. 25-Civ-5937, 2025 WL 2267803 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 8, 2025); *Martinez v. Hyde*, No. CV 13 25-11613-BEM, 2025 WL 2084238, at *9 (D.

Mass. July 24, 2025); *Gomes v. Hyde*, No. 1:25-cv- 14 11571-JEK, 2025 WL 1869299, at *8 (D. Mass. July 7, 2025); *Vasquez Garcia v. Noem*, 2025 WL 15 2549431 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 3, 2025); *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*, No. 2:25-cv-12486, 2025 WL 2496379 16 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 29, 2025); *Kostak v. Trump*, No. 3:25-cv-01093-JE, Doc. 20 (W.D. La. Aug. 27, 17 2025); Doc. 11, *Benitez v. Noem*, No. 5:25-cv-02190 (C.D.

Cal. Aug. 26, 2025); *Leal-Hernandez v. 18 Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-02428-JRR, 2025 WL 2430025 (D. Md. Aug. 24, 2025); *Romero v. Hyde*, No. 25- 19 11631-BEM, 2025 WL 2403827 (D. Mass. Aug. 19, 2025); *Arrazola-Gonzalez v. Noem*, No. 5:25-cv- 20 01789-ODW, 2025 WL 2379285 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 15, 2025); *Aguilar Maldonado v. Olson*, No. 25-cv- 21 3142, 2025 WL 2374411 (D. Minn. Aug.

15, 2025); *Dos Santos v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv-12052-JEK, 22 2025 WL 2370988 (D. Mass. Aug. 14, 2025); *Rocha Rosado v. Figueroa*, No. CV 25-02157, 2025 WL 23 2337099 (D. Ariz. Aug. 11, 2025), report and recommendation adopted 2025 WL 2349133 (D. Ariz. 24 Aug. 13, 2025); *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-cv-01874-SSS-BFM, *13 (C.D. Cal. July 25 28, 2025).

Other than the BIA’s recent decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, there is no authority for 26 the position that noncitizens such as Petitioner who have been present in the United States for many 27 years are now subject to section 1225(b). 28 1 The government contends section 1225(b) applies to all noncitizens living in this county who 2 did not lawfully enter, regardless of how long they have lived here or whether they took any 3 affirmative step to seek admission.

The government’s proposed interpretation of the statute ignores the 4 plain meaning of the phrase “seeking admission.” *Martinez*, 2025 WL 2084238, at *6. “Seeking” 5 means “asking for” or “trying to acquire or gain.” *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, [https://www.merriam-](https://www.merriam- 6) 6

webster.com/dictionary/seeking. And the use of a present participle, “seeking,” “necessarily implies 7 some sort of present-tense action.” Martinez, 2025 WL 2084238, at *6.

The term “admission” is 8 defined as “the lawful entry of the alien into the United States after inspection and authorization by an 9 immigration officer.” 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(13)(A). And “entry” has long been understood to mean “a 10 crossing into the territorial limits of the United States.” Hing Sum v. Holder, 602 F.3d 1092, 1100–01 11 (9th Cir. 2010) (quoting Matter of Pierre, 14 I & N Dec.

467, 468 (1973)). To piece this together, the 12 phrase “seeking admission” means that one must be actively “seeking” “lawful entry.” See Lopez 13 Benitez, 2025 WL 2371588, at *7. 14 Here, however, Petitioner is not actively “seeking” “lawful entry.” She has already effected 15 entry into the United States twenty years ago. Rather than seeking entry, Petitioner is present in the 16 United States and seeking to remain here.

The Lopez Benitez court analogized the difference as 17 follows: 18 [S]omeone who enters a movie theater without purchasing a ticket and then proceeds to sit through the first few minutes of a film would not ordinarily then be described as “seeking 19 admission” to the theater. Rather, that person would be described as already present there. Even if that person, after being detected, offered to pay for a ticket, one would not ordinarily 20 describe them as “seeking admission” (or “seeking” “lawful entry”) at that point—one would say that they had entered unlawfully but now seek a lawful means of remaining there.

As § 21 1225(b)(2)(A) applies only to those noncitizens who are actively “seeking admission” to the United States, it cannot, according to its ordinary meaning, apply to [petitioner], because he 22 has already been residing in the United States for more than two years. 23 Lopez Benitez, 2025 WL 2371588, at *7; see also Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft, No. 2:25-CV-12486, 24 2025 WL 2496379, at *6 (E.D.

Mich. Aug. 29, 2025) (“[S]eeking admission’ implies action – 25 something that is currently occurring, and in this instance, would most logically occur at the border 26 upon inspection.”). 27 While Petitioner could be considered an “applicant for admission” because she is allegedly an 28 “alien present in the United States who has not been admitted,” as defined at 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a) (1), 1 the government has failed to show that, over 20 years after she entered the country, Petitioner was 2 actively “seeking admission.” The government’s “selective reading of the statute... ignores its 3 ‘seeking admission’ language.” Martinez, 2025 WL 2084238, at *6. “If, as the government argues, 4 [section] 1225(b)(2)(A) was intended to apply to all ‘applicant[s] for admission,’ there would be no 5 need to include the phrase ‘seeking admission’ in the statute.” Lopez Benitez, 2025 WL 2371588, at 6 *6. “That is, rather than stating that mandatory detention is required for any ‘applicant for admission, 7 if the examining immigration officer determines that an alien seeking admission is not clearly and 8 beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted,’ the

statute would instead provide for mandatory detention for 9 any ‘applicant for admission, if the examining immigration officer determines that [the] alien seeking 10 admission is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted.’” Id. (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 11 1225(b)(2)(A)).

The rule against surplusage counsels that “‘every clause and word of a statute’ should 12 have meaning.” See *United States, ex rel. Polansky v. Exec. Health Res., Inc.*, 599 U.S. 419, 432 13 (2023) (quoting *Montclair v. Ramsdell*, 107 U.S. 147, 152 (1883)); *League of California Cities v. Fed. 14 Commc’ns Comm’n*, 118 F.4th 995, 1019 (9th Cir. 2024) (“The rule against surplusage generally 15 prohibits [a court] from interpreting [a statute] in a way that ‘mak[es] a part of it unnecessary.’” 16 (quoting *NLRB v. Aakash, Inc.*, 58 F.4th 1099, 1105 (9th Cir.

2023)). The government’s position 17 would make the “seeking admission” language meaningless and violate the rule against surplusage. 18 *Martinez*, 2025 WL 2084238, at *6; *Lopez Benitez*, 2025 WL 2371588, at *6. 19 The government’s argument also disregards the context of sections 1225 and 1226 and the 20 broader statutory scheme.

As the Supreme Court noted in *Jennings*, section 1225 applies “at the 21 Nation’s borders and ports of entry, where the Government must determine whether an alien seeking 22 to enter the country is admissible.” *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 287. Section 1225 “authorizes the 23 Government to detain certain aliens seeking admission into the country,” whereas section 1226 24 “authorizes the Government to detain certain aliens already in the country pending the outcome of 25 removal proceedings.” Id., 583 U.S. at 289 (emphasis added).

26 “It is a fundamental canon of statutory construction that the words of a statute must be read in 27 their context and with a view to their place in the overall statutory scheme.” *Davis v. Michigan Dep’t 28 of Treasury*, 489 U.S. 803, 809 (1989).

The title of section 1225 is “Inspection by immigration 1 officers; expedited removal of inadmissible arriving aliens; referral for hearing.” 8 U.S.C. § 1225. 2 “Inspection” is a process that occurs at the border or other ports of entry. See *Posos-Sanchez v. 3 Garland*, 3 F.4th 1176, 1183 (9th Cir. 2021) (explaining that “inspection and authorization” must “take 4 place at a ‘port of entry’” for one to be considered to have “lawfully entered”); 8 C.F.R § 235.1(a) 5 (“Application to lawfully enter the United States shall be made in person to an immigration officer at a 6 U.S. port-of-entry when the port is open for inspection.”).

The title of section 1225 also refers to 7 “expedited removal,” which applies to a noncitizen “who is arriving in the United States” and “is 8 inadmissible.” See 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1)(A). Additionally, section 1225(a)(2) prohibits the admission 9 of “stowaways”—noncitizens “who obtain[] transportation without the consent of the owner... of any 10 vessel or aircraft through concealment aboard such vessel or aircraft,” 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(49)—who 11 would be discovered at the border or a port of entry.

8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(2).² 12 The application of section 1225(b)(2)(A) to noncitizens already in the country would also 13 render superfluous a recent amendment to section 1226(c). See *Gomes*, 2025 WL 1869299, at *5. 14 Although section 1226(a) sets out a discretionary detention scheme, section 1226(c) provides an 15 exception which mandates detention for certain criminal noncitizens.

See 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E). 16 Section 1226(c)(1)(E), which was added to the statute in 2025 by the Laken Riley Act, mandates 17 detention for any noncitizen (i) who is inadmissible under section 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) as an “alien present 18 in the United States without being admitted or paroled,” and (ii) who “is charged with, arrested for, 19 convicted of, or admits” to committing certain crimes.

8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E) (emphasis added); see 20 *Gomes*, 2025 WL 1869299, at *5 (explaining statutory section). 21 If every “applicant for admission”—which is defined, as relevant here, as an “alien present in 22 the United States who has not been admitted,” see 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)(1)—is already subject to 23 mandatory detention under section 1225(b)(2)(A), as the government contends, there would have been 24 no need for the new section 1226(c)(1)(E), which mandates detention for every noncitizen who is 25 26 2 There are no similar references in section 1226.

See 8 U.S.C. § 1226. Section 1226 references circumstances 27 that logically would occur inside the country, such as the detention of certain “criminal aliens” upon their release from a correctional facility and the issuance of detainers to “State [or] local officials.” See 8 U.S.C. § 28 1226(c)(1), (3). 1 “present in the United States without being admitted or paroled” and who has been “charged with, 2 arrested for, or admits to” committing certain crimes, see 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E).

Reading § 1225 as 3 the government proposes would thus render § 1226(c)(1)(E) superfluous. See *Gomes*, 2025 WL 4 1869299, at *5; *Lopez Benitez*, 2025 WL 2371588, at *7; *Romero v. Hyde*, No. CV 25-11631-BEM, 5 2025 WL 2403827, at *11 (D. Mass. Aug. 19, 2025).

The passage of the Laken Riley Act provision 6 shows that Congress understood that not all noncitizens present in the United States who entered 7 without lawful admission were subject to mandatory detention under section 1225(b)(2)(A), and 8 Congress wanted to ensure that those who had certain criminal histories would be detained. 9 *Maldonado v. Olson*, No. 25-cv-3142, 2025 WL 2374411, *12 (D.

Minn. Aug. 15, 2025) (“[C]ourts 10 ‘do not lightly’ find that Congress adopted ‘two separate clauses in the same law to perform the same 11 work.’ The Court will not find that Congress passed the Laken Riley Act to ‘perform the same work’ 12 that was already covered by § 1225(b) (2).” (quoting *United States v. Taylor*, 596 U.S. 845, 857 13 (2022))). 14 “When Congress acts to

amend a statute, [the Court] presume[s] it intends its amendment to 15 have real and substantial effect.” See *Stone v. I.N.S.*, 514 U.S. 386, 397 (1995); *Marx v. Gen.*

Revenue 16 Corp., 568 U.S. 371, 386 (2013) (“[T]he canon against surplusage is strongest when an interpretation 17 would render superfluous another part of the same statutory scheme.”). Section 1226(c)(1)(E) is a 18 detention provision; it has no other purpose. See 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E). If all noncitizens present in 19 the United States without lawful admission were subject to mandatory detention under section 20 1225(b)(2)(A) already—as the government argues—section 1226(c)(1)(E) would be superfluous.

21 *Maldonado*, 2025 WL 237441, at *12 (“If § 1225(b)(2) already mandated detention of any alien who 22 has not been admitted, regardless of how long they have been here, then adding § 1226(c)(1)(E) to the 23 statutory scheme was pointless.”). 24 Respondents also cite § 1225(c)(3) in support of its argument that all applicants for admission 25 are “seeking admission” under § 1225(b)(2)(A).

(Doc. 20 at 20-22.) Section § 1225(c)(3) provides: 26 All aliens (including alien crewmen) who are applicants for admission or otherwise seeking admission or readmission to or transit through the United States shall be inspected by 27 immigration officers. 28 1 8 U.S.C. § 1225(a)(3) (emphasis added). Respondent argues that the use of “or otherwise” operates as 2 a catch-all to indicate that all applicants for admission are “seeking admission.” But the phrase 3 “seeking admission” in § 1225(a)(1) implies affirmative action toward admission, such as presenting 4 at a port of entry, not passive presence after unlawful entry.

See *Thuraissigiam*, 591 U.S. at 138 5 (distinguishing “applicants” as those inspected or paroled). The term “or otherwise” does not expand 6 this definition to all unadmitted noncitizens; it addresses those evading inspection.

In addition, 7 Congress used the term “arriving alien” narrowly elsewhere in § 1225, suggesting § 1225(b)(2)(A) 8 does not apply broadly to inland apprehendees. See 8 C.F.R. § 1001.1(q) (defining “arriving alien” as 9 one at a port or recently entered). 10 In addition, the order releasing Petitioner from detention in 2005 indicates she was placed in 11 removal proceedings and released on her own recognizance pursuant to Section 236 of the 12 Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).

(Doc. 20-1 at 9.) This further undermines the 13 government’s argument that she is subject to mandatory detention under section 1225(b). Section 14 1226(a) “authorizes the Government to detain certain aliens already in the country pending the 15 outcome of removal proceedings,” *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 289, “and it applies when a noncitizen is 16 ‘arrested and detained’ ‘[o]n a warrant issued by the Attorney General.’” *Gomes*, 2025 WL 1869299, 17 at *5 (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a)).

There is nothing in the record to indicate Petitioner has ever been 18 detained, either in 2005 or 2025, pursuant to § 1225(b). That is the only provision that could have 19 applied under the plain terms of the statute. See also *Jennings*, 583 U.S. at 281 (explaining that section 20 1226(a) applies to those “already in the country”); *Gomes*, 2025 WL 1869299, at *5 (reaching the 21 same conclusion); *Lopez Benitez*, 2025 WL 2371588, at *10 (holding that the government’s initial 22 release of a noncitizen pursuant to section 1226 indicated he was not subject to mandatory detention 23 under section 1225).

24 The government previously applied section 1226(a) to noncitizens, such as Petitioner, who 25 entered the country without admission. See *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 n.6 (B.I.A. 26 2025) (“We acknowledge that for years Immigration Judges have conducted [section 1226(a)] bond 27 hearings for aliens who entered the United States without inspection.”); *Martinez*, 2025 WL 2084238, 28 at *6.

While divining the meaning of a statute belongs to the “independent judgment” of the courts, 1 “the longstanding practice of the government”—like any other interpretive aid—‘can inform [a 2 court’s] determination of what the law is.’” *Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369, 385–86, 3 412 (2024) (quoting *NLRB v. Noel Canning*, 573 U.S. 513, 525 (2014)).

For decades, DHS has 4 applied § 1226(a) to noncitizens who entered without inspection but were apprehended inland, 5 acknowledging they are not “arriving aliens” at a port of entry. *Ortega-Cervantes v. Gonzales*, 501 F.3d 1111, 1116 (9th Cir. 2007). This is “powerful evidence” of a “natural and reasonable” reading of 7 the statute. *Abramski v. United States*, 573 U.S. 169, 203 (2014) (Scalia, J., dissenting).

The Court 8 finds that the government’s longstanding practice, under which section 1225(b)(2)(A) would not have 9 applied to Petitioner’s circumstances, is consistent with the text and statutory scheme. See, e.g., *Lopez 10 Benitez*, 2025 WL 2371588, at *8 (reaching same conclusion).³ 11 The government also makes the policy argument that subjecting those who are detained at the 12 border to mandatory detention, while allowing those who entered the United States without permission 13 to be released on bond, “would create the perverse incentive for aliens to enter the country unlawfully 14 – or surreptitiously get access to the country’s interior – rather than enter at a lawful location.” (Doc.

15 20 at 26.) This argument disregards the different due process considerations for noncitizens 16 encountered at the border or ports of entry, versus for noncitizens who have established residence in 17 this country.

As the court in *Romero* noted: 18 The relevant distinction... is between persons inside the United States and persons outside the United States. That distinction is consistent with the long history of our immigration laws and 19 with the Constitution. “[O]nce an alien enters the country, the legal

circumstance changes, for the Due Process Clause applies to all ‘persons’ within the United States, including aliens, 20 whether their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary, or permanent.” *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693, 121 S. Ct.

2491, 150 L. Ed.2d 653 (2001). 21 22 *Romero*, 2025 WL 2403827, at *12–13; cf. *Lopez-Campos*, 2025 WL 2496379, at *9–10 (finding that 23 the government’s application of section 1225(b)(2) (A) in similar circumstances violated detainee’s 24 due process rights). 25 26 27 3 The fact that the government’s new interpretation of statute conflicts with years of prior interpretation also helps establish that Petitioner, at a minimum, has shown that there are serious questions concerning the merits 28 of its claims regarding the statute’s interpretation.

1 Civil immigration detention, which is “nonpunitive in purpose and effect[,]” is typically 2 justified under the Due Process Clause only when a noncitizen presents a risk of flight or danger to the 3 community. See *Zadvydas*, 533 U.S. at 690; *Padilla v. ICE*, 704 F. Supp. 3d 1163, 1172 (W.D. Wash. 4 2023). “It is therefore reasonable to read these statutes ‘against [that] backdrop.’” *Romero*, 2025 WL 5 2403827, at *13 (quoting *Hewitt v. United States*, 145 S. Ct.

2165, 2173 (2025)). Moreover, policy 6 arguments cannot override the plain meaning of the text. See also *Romero*, 2025 WL 2403827, at *12. 7 In sum, the Court concludes that Petitioner is likely to succeed on the merits of her claim that 8 she is not subject to mandatory detention under section 1225(b)(2)(A) and that she was wrongfully 9 denied release on bond under section 1226(a), as initially determined by the IJ.

10 III. Irreparable Harm 11 Turning to the second Winter factor, the Ninth Circuit has recognized that there may be 12 numerous “irreparable harms imposed on anyone subject to immigration detention,” such as “subpar 13 medical and psychiatric care in ICE detention facilities [and] the economic burdens imposed on 14 detainees and their families as a result of detention.” *Hernandez*, 872 F.3d at 995.

15 Petitioner has established that she has been suffering and will continue to suffer irreparable 16 harm in the absence of injunctive relief. Petitioner remains in need of treatment and medication for her 17 diabetic condition. Petitioner states she has already been rushed to the hospital on three occasions due 18 to inadequate care (only one injection per day vs. her normal two-a-day injections).

According to 19 Petitioner’s doctor, Petitioner is insulin dependent, and “[w]ithout significant attention to her diabetes 20 she will certainly wind up in DKA and likely hospitalization or death.” (Doc. 1-6 at 1.) 21 Respondents do not dispute Petitioner’s evidence that her medical needs are substantial or that 22 her detention increases her risk of further medical complications.

However, Respondents contend that 23 her claim of inadequate health care is unsupported. Respondents claim Petitioner is being provided 24 proper care under the circumstances, and that

when she was taken into custody, she advised officers 25 she was in good health. (Doc. 20 at 28.) Respondents ignore the fact that Petitioner has already been 26 transported to the hospital for hyperglycemia on three occasions while in detention, which manifestly 27 supports her claim that her diabetic condition is not being treated adequately.

28 1 Respondent also argues that Petitioner’s “unlawful deprivation of physical liberty” is a harm 2 that “is essentially inherent in detention,” and thus “the Court cannot weigh this strongly in favor of” 3 Petitioner. (Doc. 20 at 28.) This argument is flawed because the government is attempting to enforce 4 the immigration laws based on a misreading of the statutes, as noted above.

As other courts that have 5 faced this issue have explained, the violation of Petitioner’s statutory rights causes “immediate and 6 irreparable injury.” *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-cv-01874-SSS-BFM (C.D. Cal. July 7 28, 2025). 8 IV. Balance of Hardships and Public Interest 9 When the government is the nonmoving party, “the last two Winter factors merge.” *Baird v. 10 Bonta*, 81 F.4th 1036, 1040 (9th Cir.

2023) (internal citations omitted). Here, the balance of equities 11 tips in Petitioner’s favor. As the IJ determined in the initial custody hearing, she poses no risk, and her 12 release would allow family support.

The public interest favors family unity over unchecked detention. 13 See *Singh v. Lewis*, 2025 WL 2699219, at *4 (W.D. Ky. Sept. 22, 2025). The government has a 14 minimal burden in releasing one person, and the costs to the public for immigration detention are high. 15 *Diaz v. Kaiser*, No. 3:25-CV-05071, 2025 WL 1676854, at *3 (N.D. Cal. June 14, 2025). Furthermore, 16 the government’s interests are not undermined because Petitioner remains in removal proceedings.

17 These factors support relief. 18 V. Remedy 19 The purpose of a preliminary injunction is to return the parties to the status quo ante, which is 20 “not simply [] any situation before the filing of a lawsuit, but instead [] ‘the last uncontested status 21 which preceded the pending controversy.’” *GoTo.com, Inc. v. Walt Disney Co.*, 202 F.3d 1199, 1210 22 (9th Cir.

2000). In the order granting temporary restraining order, Petitioner was granted immediate 23 release on a \$3,000 bond as was initially ordered by the IJ. 24 In her supplemental brief, Petitioner argues that she should not have additional conditions of 25 release placed on her unless and until an IJ so orders. Respondent contends that the issue of the 26 electronic monitoring device should be referred to an IJ.

Respondent states the device was placed on 27 Petitioner because of her demonstrated failure to comply with previous conditions of release. 28 Specifically, Respondent cites to Petitioner’s failure to appear at an immigration office as she was 1 directed to do per the Form I-220A she signed upon release in 2005.

The Court does not find this 2 rationale persuasive. 3 Much has changed since 2005. Since then, for the past twenty years, Petitioner has resided in 4 California. She has a family including three children. She was gainfully employed prior to detention. 5 She suffers from health problems that require daily care.

Thus, Respondent's evidence dating from 6 2005 when Petitioner first entered the country holds little weight compared to the present facts which 7 purport to show Petitioner is not a risk of flight and can be easily located without the necessity of an 8 ankle monitoring device. 9 The Court finds that for Petitioner to be returned to the status quo prior to the pending 10 controversy, the conditions of release placed on her by the Government must be removed, as Petitioner 11 was not subject to such conditions prior to her arrest and detention.

Electronic monitoring devices 12 were not made conditions of release by either the IJ at the initial custody hearing, or by this Court in 13 its order granting immediate release. As the Government acknowledges, such conditions are the 14 purview of the IJ. 15 VI. Conclusion and Order 16 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: 17 1) Petitioner's motion for temporary restraining order, (Doc.

12), is CONVERTED to a 18 preliminary injunction. 19 2) Respondents are PERMANENTLY ENJOINED AND RESTRAINED from re-arresting or 20 re-detaining Petitioner absent compliance with constitutional protections, which include at 21 a minimum, predeprivation notice of at least seven (7) days before a predeprivation hearing 22 at which the Government will bear the burden of demonstrating by clear and convincing 23 evidence that she is likely to flee or pose a danger to the community if not arrested and at 24 which Petitioner may be represented by her counsel.

25 3) DHS SHALL REMOVE the electronic ankle monitoring device, and SHALL NOT impose 26 any additional restrictions on Petitioner, unless that is determined to be necessary at a later 27 custody hearing. 28 1 4) The parties are DIRECTED to notify the Court whether they require further briefing on the 2 merits of the petition within seven (7) days. Should further briefing be requested, the Court 3 will set a briefing schedule.

4 5 IT IS SO ORDERED. 6 Dated: November 5, 2025 /s/ Sheila K. Oberto. 7 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28