

No. 25-5152

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**In the United States Court of Appeals  
for the District of Columbia**

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COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS, *et al.*,  
*Plaintiffs - Appellants,*

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, *et al.*,  
*Defendants – Appellees,*

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On Appeal from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia  
Case No. 1:25-cv-00943-TNM, Honorable Trevor N. McFadden, District Judge

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**PLAINTIFFS-APPELLANTS' MOTION FOR STAY OR, IN THE  
ALTERNATIVE, INJUNCTION PENDING APPEAL**

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Lynn Damiano Pearson\*\*  
Cassandra Charles\*\*  
Joanna Cuevas Ingram\*\*  
National Immigration Law Center  
P.O. Box 34573  
Washington, D.C. 20043  
Tel: (213) 639-3900  
Fax: (213) 639-3911  
damianopearson@nilc.org  
charles@nilc.org  
cuevasingram@nilc.org

Michelle Lapointe  
Emma Winger\*  
Leslie K. Dellon  
Chris Opila\*  
American Immigration Council  
2001 L Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: (202) 507-7645  
ewinger@immcouncil.org  
mlapointe@immcouncil.org  
ldellon@immcouncil.org  
copila@immcouncil.org

*Counsel for Plaintiffs – Appellants*  
(Additional counsel listed on signature block)

*\*Admission Application Pending*

*\*\*Admission Application Forthcoming*

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**MOTION FOR A STAY OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE,  
AN INJUNCTION PENDING**

Plaintiffs-Appellants move for a stay pending appeal pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §705, or in the alternative an injunction pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 8, of an Interim Final Rule (IFR) on noncitizen registration, 90 Fed. Reg. 11793 (Mar. 12, 2025). The IFR implements without notice and comment a new scheme that requires *for the first time* millions of noncitizens to register with the government with an entirely new form, submit biometrics, and carry their papers at all times.<sup>1</sup>

**INTRODUCTION**

This case challenges Defendants' rushed and arbitrary implementation of a brand-new universal noncitizen registration scheme by executive action. Defendants imposed this scheme through an IFR without prior notice and consideration of public comment and without any meaningful explanation for the significant shift in policy, in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"). As soon as the IFR went into effect on April 11, Defendants began prosecuting noncitizens newly obligated to register.

The district court recognized that the IFR marks a dramatic change in course by executive action without the APA's procedural protections. As the court

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<sup>1</sup> Defendants oppose this motion.

observed: “[T]his is a pretty big switcheroo from what’s been happening, and [] the case law and the APA would require something more than what [Defendants have] done to implement this rule.” Ex. B (Hrg. Tr.) 22:5-8; *see* Ex. A (Mem. Order) 2-4.

Nevertheless, the district court denied Plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction and APA stay without reaching the merits, solely on the ground that Plaintiffs had failed to establish standing. That is wrong. Plaintiffs Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (“CHIRLA”), United Farm Workers of America (“UFW”), CASA, Inc. (“CASA”) and Make the Road New York (“MRNY”) are membership-based organizations of noncitizens and mixed status families who are directly regulated by the IFR and are already experiencing the harms imposed by it. And while the district court *sua sponte* attempted to cast doubt on the reliability of their evidence—despite Defendants raising no such concern in their papers—Plaintiffs in fact established standing through detailed declarations showing that their members, who are newly required to register under the IFR, and Plaintiff CHIRLA as an organization, will be injured by the new rule. That is ample at this early stage in the litigation.

Absent action from this Court, arrests will continue under an IFR that blatantly disregards the requirements of the APA. Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter an APA stay or injunction to preserve the status quo ante and

protect Plaintiffs and their members from irreparable harm, while they appeal the district court's denial of the preliminary injunction.

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

This case addresses a dramatic change in policy regarding the registration of noncitizens in the United States. While the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”) contains registration provisions at 8 U.S.C. §§1301-1306, before the IFR, “aliens who had entered the country illegally were effectively exempt from the statutory registration requirements, since there existed no process by which they could register.” Ex. A (Mem. Order) 2. Indeed, the United States has never previously adopted a universal noncitizen registration scheme for the purpose of facilitating mass deportation. During World War II, the federal government briefly maintained a national inventory of noncitizens with the promise to grant suspension of deportation to those who registered. Nancy Morawetz & Natasha Fernández-Silber, *Immigration Law and the Myth of Comprehensive Registration*, 48 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 141, 155-60 (2014). Since the end of World War II, the federal government has progressively narrowed the scope of noncitizens subject to registration and, outside the exigencies of wartime or a terrorist attack, accomplished registration through established statutory and regulatory mechanisms for granting immigration status and other immigration benefits. *See id.* at 161-72; *see* Ex. A (Mem. Order) 2-3.

Then, on March 12, 2025, Defendants issued the IFR, newly creating a universal registration system, and consequently a new obligation to register and carry proof of registration at all times. 90 Fed. Reg. 11793. Their stated purpose was not to recreate a national inventory but to facilitate mass detention and deportation. Press Release, DHS, *Secretary Noem Announces Agency Will Enforce Laws That Penalize Aliens in the Country Illegally* (Feb. 25, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/mrex6hhy>; Billal Rahman, *Kristi Noem Breaks Down How Federal Migrants Register Works*, Newsweek (Feb. 26, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/bdz9prye>. Defendants promised to vigorously enforce this new requirement. *See* Exec. Order No. 14159, Protecting the American People Against Invasion, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443, 8444 (Jan. 20, 2025); Memorandum from the Attorney General, General Policy Regarding Charging, Plea Negotiations, and Sentencing, at 3 (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/25wr8sd5>

The IFR creates a new online, English-only general registration form, Form G-325R. *See* 90 Fed. Reg. at 11795. The form mandates collection of information beyond what is specifically enumerated in the INA, including uncharged criminal conduct and detailed information about family members. *See* Form G-325R Biographic Information (Registration), OMB: 1615-0166, <https://tinyurl.com/3txjv5an> (hereinafter “Form G-325R”). The IFR also sets up a new system to submit biometrics, including fingerprints, and receive proof of

registration which must be carried at all times. 90 Fed. Reg. at 11795 & n.7.

Defendants estimate that the IFR will attach new registration requirements to between 2.2 and 3.2 million people. 90 Fed. Reg. at 11797.

The IFR asserts that it is exempt from notice and comment rulemaking because it is merely “a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice” that “does not alter the rights or interests of any party.” *Id.* at 11796. Yet at the hearing below, counsel for Defendants conceded that prior to the IFR, there was no “universal form that would apply across the board” for all undocumented immigrants to register. Ex. B (Hrg. Tr.) 43:6-11. And Defendants have made good on their promise to enforce the new obligation—prosecutions for failure to register under this new scheme have already begun. *See* Ex. H (multiple federal criminal complaints under 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a) filed since April 17, 2025); Ex. U (Milagros Cisneros Decl.) ¶¶3-4.

The district court denied Plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction on April 10 solely on standing grounds. Ex. A (Mem. Op).

On April 24, 2025, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(1)(C), Plaintiffs filed a motion for an injunction pending appeal. The district court declined to promptly rule, instead directing a response on May 19 (a longer period than dictated by local rule, *see* LCvR 7(b)), and setting a hearing for June 6—some six weeks after the motion was filed. The Court made clear that a motion to shorten this schedule



would be futile, explaining that it “will not take off in another sprint” to adjudicate Plaintiffs’ motion. Ex. C (Order) 1.

### **LEGAL STANDARD**

To succeed on a motion for an injunction pending appeal the movant must show that the district court likely abused its discretion in denying a preliminary injunction and that they are (1) “likely to succeed on the merits,” (2) “likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief,” (3) “the balance of equities tips in [their] favor,” and (4) “an injunction is in the public interest.” *John Doe Co. v. Consumer Fin. Prot. Bureau*, 849 F.3d 1129, 1131 (D.C. Cir. 2017); D.C. Cir. *Handbook of Practice and Internal Procedures* 33 (2014). The same factors apply to issuance of a stay pursuant to §705. *D.C. v. U.S. Dep’t of Agric.*, 444 F. Supp. 3d 1, 15 (D.D.C. 2000) (and cases cited therein).

### **ARGUMENT**

#### **I. PLAINTIFFS ARE LIKELY TO SUCCEED ON THE MERITS**

##### **A. Plaintiffs Have Established Associational Standing**

The district court rejected Plaintiffs’ associational standing by disregarding their evidence and concluding it was legally insufficient. Both grounds are baseless.

As to the evidence, there can be no real doubt that Plaintiffs’ members are required to register—and, indeed, Defendants never raised any such concerns in their papers. Plaintiffs submitted sworn declarations from organizational

representatives which attest under the penalty of perjury to basic biographical details of individual members. Exs. D-G (Representative Declarations). Courts, including the Supreme Court, have routinely “recognized associational standing based on declarations from leaders of organizations describing their organizations’ membership in sufficient detail to support a finding of standing.” *League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. Exec. Off. of the President*, No. CV 25-0946 (CKK), 2025 WL 1187730, at \*24 (D.D.C. Apr. 24, 2025) (citing *Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama*, 575 U.S. 254, 271 (2015), *Parents Involved in Cmty. Sch. v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 551 U.S. 701, 718 (2007), and *Mi Familia Vota v. Fontes*, 129 F.4th 691, 708 (9th Cir. 2025)); *New Hampshire Indonesian Cmty. Support v. Trump*, No. 25-CV-38-JL-TSM, 2025 WL 457609, at \*2 & n.7 (D.N.H. Feb. 11, 2025); *Equal Access Educ. v. Merten*, 305 F. Supp. 2d 585, 600 (E.D. Va. 2004). At a minimum, this evidence is sufficiently reliable at the preliminary injunction stage, where hearsay is indisputably admissible. *See, e.g., S. Poverty L. Ctr. v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, No. CV 18-760 (CKK), 2020 WL 3265533, at \*3 n. 2 (D.D.C. June 17, 2020); *Talbott v. United States*, No. 25-CV-00240 (ACR), 2025 WL 842332, at \*9 (D.D.C. Mar. 18, 2025).

The district court cited no case from this Court holding such a declaration improper; in fact, the primary case on which the court relies is one in which the district court *did* rely on so-called “double hearsay” to grant a preliminary

injunction. *Karem v. Trump*, 404 F. Supp. 3d 203, 214–15 & n.3 (D.D.C. 2019), *aff'd as modified*, 960 F.3d 656 (D.C. Cir. 2020) (relying on newspaper articles with others' descriptions of disputes, 1:19-cv-02514 ECF No. 18-14, recognizing that while such evidence may not be “conclusive” at later stages, ““a preliminary injunction is customarily granted on the basis of procedures that are less formal and evidence that is less complete than in a trial on the merits.”” (quoting *Univ. of Texas v. Camenisch*, 451 U.S. 390, 395 (1981))). The other case on which the court relied—*Humane Soc’y of United States v. Animal & Plant Health Inspection Serv.*, 386 F. Supp. 3d 34, 44 (D.D.C. 2019)—involved a motion for summary judgment under the Freedom of Information Act in which the court gave the defendant an opportunity to present non-hearsay evidence and they declined; it is inapposite. However, in response to the district court’s rejection of this evidence as “double hearsay”—a concern the court raised sua sponte during the hearing, *see* Ex. B (Hrg. Tr.) 5-6, 19—Plaintiffs obtained individual declarations from their members, which they submitted to the district court in support of their motion for an injunction pending appeal. *See* Exs. C-N (Member Declarations).

The district court also expressed concern about the reliability of pseudonymous declarations, Ex. A (Mem. Order) 14, but courts have long relied on them. *See, e.g., Make the Rd. New York v. McAleenan*, 405 F. Supp. 3d 1, 32 (D.D.C. 2019), *rev'd on other grounds and remanded sub nom. Make the Rd. New*

*York v. Wolf*, 962 F.3d 612 (D.C. Cir. 2020); *NAACP v. Trump*, 298 F. Supp. 3d 209, 225 (D.D.C. 2018), *aff'd and remanded sub nom. Dep't of Homeland Sec. v. Regents of the Univ. of California*, 140 S. Ct. 1891 (2020); *see also Am. All. for Equal Rts. v. Fearless Fund Mgmt., LLC*, 103 F.4th 765, 772-73 (11th Cir. 2024); *Speech First, Inc. v. Shrum*, 92 F.4th 947, 950 (10th Cir. 2024) (citing *NAACP v. Alabama ex rel. Patterson*, 357 U.S. 449, 458–59 (1958)). Of course, Defendants or the district court could further examine these factual questions before final judgment. But there can be no serious doubt about the basic facts Plaintiffs have adduced, and at a minimum at this early stage they have established a “substantial likelihood of standing” sufficient for interim relief. Ex. A (Mem. Order) 1.<sup>2</sup>

Based on those undisputed facts, and under binding Supreme Court precedent, these members have standing as directly regulated parties who must, for the first time, submit a lengthy registration form that requires information on a range of sensitive matters, travel to a federal building to provide biometrics, and carry proof of registration at all times or face arrest and federal prosecution. *See Food & Drug Admin. v. All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. 367, 382 (2024) (“Government regulations that require or forbid some action by the plaintiff almost invariably satisfy both the injury in fact and causation requirements. So in those

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<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, Plaintiffs also offered to make unredacted declarations available under seal to the district court for in camera review, if requested, or in the alternative, to attempt to negotiate a protective order with Defendants.

cases, standing is usually easy to establish.”); *Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 561-62 (1992) (where a person is “an object of the [government] action . . . there is ordinarily little question that the action or inaction has caused him injury, and that a judgment preventing or requiring the action will redress it”); *City of Clarksville v. FERC*, 888 F.3d 477, 482 (D.C. Cir. 2018) (same); *State Nat. Bank of Big Spring v. Lew*, 795 F.3d 48, 53 (D.C. Cir. 2015) (Kavanaugh, J.) (same). Here, Plaintiffs’ members are directly regulated parties challenging a rule under which they are regulated.

*TransUnion LLC v. Ramirez*, 594 U.S. 413, 440 (2021), on which the district court heavily relied, is inapposite. *See* Ex. A (Mem. Order) 15. *TransUnion* did not involve directly regulated parties. Instead, it held that individuals Congress had provided with a statutory cause of action to challenge a credit agency’s failure to comply with the Fair Credit Reporting Act must also have a concrete injury to establish standing under Article III. *See* 594 U.S. at 423-24; *id.* at 427 (rejecting argument that an “uninjured plaintiff” may sue “to ensure a defendant’s compliance with regulatory law”) (internal quotation omitted). But this is not a case where the Court must adjudicate a “hypothetical or abstract dispute[]” nor would it produce an “advisory opinion[].” *Id.* at 423-24. Plaintiffs’ members are subject to a concrete and particular harm—the IFR directly imposes a series of new legal obligations on

them which can be immediately redressed by an order enjoining the IFR. This is enough for standing. *See All. for Hippocratic Med*, 602 U.S. at 382.

But Plaintiffs established even more. Defendants' own estimates show an average of \$90 in wage loss per individual for the nearly two hours needed to complete the new process, and an average of \$118 million in annual lost wages for affected individuals. *See* Supporting Statement for Biographic Information (Registration), OMB Control No.: 1615-NEW, <https://tinyurl.com/2cs24kmp> (click on Statement A, G-325R-001\_NEW\_EMGCY\_SPTSTMT.v2.docx); 90 Fed. Reg. at 11799. Form G-325R requires disclosure of a wide range of sensitive, personal information, including details about any uncharged criminal conduct, personal activities, and family members. *See* Form G-325R. These additional harms are indisputably sufficient for standing. *See TransUnion*, 594 U.S. at 425 (“monetary injury” and “disclosure of private information” both “traditionally recognized as providing a basis for lawsuits in American courts”); *see also Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski*, 592 U.S. 279, 292 (2021) (\$1 damages sufficient for standing).

Moreover, some members are unable to access the IFR registration process *at all*, because the IFR provides that it is only available online, and only in English, exposing them to criminal penalties for either failure to register or for errors in the registration. Ex. I (“Ana” Decl.) ¶¶ 5, 8; J (“Gloria” Decl.) ¶¶ 7, 9.

Members who are seeking statutorily authorized immigration benefits that do not count as registration forms must now use this separate registration process that Defendants have stated is for mass deportation, placing them at imminent risk of removal and the inability to pursue congressionally authorized immigration relief for which they are eligible. *See* Ex. L (“Ursela” Decl.) ¶ 4, Ex. M (“Tiana” Decl.) ¶ 5; Ex. N (“Guvelia” Decl.) ¶ 9.

Finally, the IFR threatens constitutionally protected interests of Plaintiffs’ members, including the protection against self-incrimination by forcing admissions of criminal conduct. Despite the district court’s doubts, Mem. Order 18, Member Ursela certainly can be prosecuted under 8 U.S.C. § 1325—either in delinquency proceedings until she turns 21, or in adult proceedings thereafter. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 5031. Defendants have promised to vigorously enforce this particular offense and indeed, have begun doing so across the country. *See* Off. of the U.S. Att’ys, U.S. Dep’t of Just., Prosecuting Immigration Crimes Report - 8 U.S.C. § 1325 Defendants Charged (Apr. 9. 2025), <https://tinyurl.com/rsedtz5m> (reporting 1,596 prosecutions in March 2025, a 240 percent increase compared to January 2025). And individuals in delinquency proceedings have a Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, just like those in adult criminal proceedings. *In re Gault*, 387 U.S. 1, 49 (1967).

The district court brushed aside this harm, deeming Ursela’s “Fifth Amendment claim” as unripe. Ex. A (Mem. Order) 18-19. But that misunderstands the role of self-incrimination concerns here. Plaintiffs are not seeking to enjoin the IFR as a violation of the Fifth Amendment. Rather, Plaintiffs’ *claims* are under the APA, but part of the *injury* is forced disclosure that burdens the Fifth Amendment rights of registrants by requiring them to admit to criminal conduct on threat of federal prosecution, without providing any evident mechanism to assert a privilege (the options are “yes” or “no”). *See* Form G-325R at 7. In any event, courts must assume plaintiffs will succeed on the merits for purposes of a standing analysis. *See Tanner-Brown v. Haaland*, 105 F.4th 437, 444 (D.C. Cir. 2024).<sup>3</sup>

Similarly, Plaintiffs’ members have shown that the IFR arguably burdens their First Amendment protected speech by requiring them to report on their protected advocacy “activities,” *see* Form G-325R at 6, exposing them to imminent retaliatory enforcement (given Defendants’ express promises to use registration as a tool for enforcement) *for their speech*. *See* Exs. I (“YL” Decl.) ¶¶ 3-4; Ex. J (“ME” Decl.) ¶¶ 4-5; Ex. K (“JC” Decl.) ¶¶ 4-6; Ex. L (“ALDC” Decl.) ¶¶ 4-5; Ex. M (“NC” Decl.) ¶¶ 4-5; Ex. N (“PH” Decl.) ¶¶ 3-5; Ex. E (“Luisa” Decl.) ¶¶ 4-5.

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<sup>3</sup> Because standing analysis requires an assumption that Plaintiffs will prevail on the merits, the conclusion that their injury is a “mere requirement to abide by the law,” Ex. A (Mem. Order) 15, is likewise an improper conflation of the merits and standing.



Again here, Plaintiffs do not bring independent First Amendment claims. As for standing, they invoke federal court jurisdiction as parties directly regulated by the IFR—which is bolstered in part by the *injury* they suffer by being forced to expose themselves to an objective threat of retaliatory action. Therefore, the cases relied on by the district court are inapposite. *See* Ex. A (Mem. Order) 20.

Moreover, even if they were not directly regulated, Plaintiffs would meet the standard for a standalone First Amendment harm. Plaintiffs agree with the district court that the standard is not subjective fear but instead whether the government action would cause a person of “ordinary firmness” to feel a chilling effect. *Edgar v. Haines*, 2 F.4th 298, 310 (4th Cir. 2021); *see Turner v. U.S. Agency for Glob. Media*, 502 F. Supp. 3d 333, 381 (D.D.C. 2020). Here, against the backdrop of extraordinary recent enforcement directly tied to speech activities, a person of “ordinary firmness” would experience chilling of speech by having to disclose to the government First Amendment protected activity on a form whose stated purpose is to aid in deportation efforts. *See* Karina Tsui, *What We Know about the Federal Detention of Activists, Students and Scholars Connected to Universities*, CNN (Apr. 2, 2025, 8:48 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/y7z8dysv>; David Morgan, *Republican US Senator Murkowski on Threat of Trump Retaliation: 'We Are All Afraid'*, Reuters (Apr. 17, 2025, 11:06 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/2v4hu4hn>; Melissa

Quinn, *Trump's Crusade Against Big Law Firms Sparks Fears of Long-Lasting Damage*, CBS News (Apr. 2, 2025, 3:20 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/5c766bej>.

Finally, Plaintiffs' concerns about prosecution for failure to register have been borne out, with this sample of federal charges in just one week illustrating what Defendants have promised will be a larger national trend. *See* Ex. H (criminal complaints); Ex. U (Cisneros Decl.). This harm is concrete and nonspeculative.

Because Plaintiffs' members have established standing on multiple grounds, because the interests that Plaintiffs seek to protect are germane to their missions, and because individual members need not participate in this lawsuit, Plaintiffs have shown standing sufficient to support an injunction of the IFR pending appeal. *See Hunt v. Wash. State Apple Advert. Comm'n*, 432 U.S. 333, 343 (1977).

## **B. Plaintiff CHIRLA Has Established Organizational Standing**

CHIRLA has shown injuries that impact its core programmatic work of providing legal services. For organizational standing, a plaintiff must face a “concrete and demonstrable injury to [its] activities that is more than “simply a setback to [its] abstract social interests.” *Am. Anti-Vivisection Soc’y v. U.S. Dep’t of Agric.*, 946 F.3d 615, 618 (D.C. Cir. 2020) (quoting *Havens Realty Corp. v. Coleman*, 455 U.S. 363, 379 (1982)). Here, unlike the cases relied upon by the district court, CHIRLA is not simply an advocacy and public education organization. *See* Ex. A (Mem. Order) 7-10 (citing *Food & Water Watch, Inc. v.*

*Vilsack*, 808 F.3d 905, 919-21 (D.C. Cir. 2015) (education and advocacy around poultry inspection), *All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. at 394 (advocacy around abortion drug), *Nat'l Taxpayers Union, Inc. v. United States*, 68 F.3d 1428, 1434 (D.C. Cir. 1995) (taxpayer education and advocacy)); *Elec. Priv. Info. Ctr. v. U.S. Dep't of Educ.*, 48 F. Supp. 3d 1, 23–24 (D.D.C. 2014) (advocacy organization asserting lobbying related expenditures).

Instead, CHIRLA has identified the following concrete harms to its core programmatic work: 1) at least 100 current clients it has already identified who appear required to register under the IFR, including 60 U visa applicants (those applying for immigration relief as victims of certain serious crimes), Ex. D (Salas Decl.) ¶¶ 18; 2. the need for legal staff to spend additional time—impacting their ability to provide legal representation in other ways—to review client files to determine the need to register, which will require filing a FOIA request for some cases, and the need to engage in separate consultations with clients about registering, *id.* ¶¶ 18, 20; 3) an increase in the volume of inquiries about registration through its hotline, evidenced in part by numerous calls inquiring about registration in anticipation of the IFR taking effect, *id.* ¶¶ 16-17; 4) a strain on its personnel and financial resources as a result of this increased volume of work arising from the IFR, *id.* ¶¶ 17-21; and 5) interference with existing grant deliverables that fund legal services for immigration benefits and removal

proceedings on a per case basis, *id.* ¶¶ 19; 11. Underscoring that such harm is not speculative, the government’s own numbers in the IFR indicate that it will impact 2-3 million people. 90 Fed. Reg. at 11797.

Within this circuit, courts have held that similar injuries are sufficiently concrete and nonspeculative. *See Cath. Legal Immigr. Network, Inc. v. Exec. Off. for Immigr. Rev.*, 513 F. Supp. 3d 154, 169-71 (D.D.C. 2021); *Nw. Immigr. Rts. Project v. U.S. Citizenship & Immigr. Servs.*, 496 F. Supp. 3d 31, 46-50 (D.D.C. 2020). Notably, an organization need not be entirely hamstrung to establish standing—its activities need only be “perceptibly impaired.” *People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals v. U.S. Dep’t of Agric.*, 797 F.3d 1087, 1100 (D.C. Cir. 2015) (“*PETA*”) (quoting *Havens*, 455 U.S. at 379).

It is not the case that because CHIRLA describes its mission as ensuring the integration of immigrant communities into our society “with full rights and access to resources,” Ex. D (Salas Decl.) ¶ 3, the IFR in some ways furthers its mission. *See* Ex. A (Mem. Order) 11. It is the government’s action, not the organization’s response to it, that is to be judged against the mission. *PETA*, 797 F.3d at 1095. Plainly, a regulation that puts millions of noncitizens in the crosshairs for immigration enforcement under pain of criminal prosecution does not further the mission of immigrant integration.

### C. Defendants Have Violated the APA

The IFR plainly violates the APA. As the district court observed, the IFR represents a significant change in policy that alters the rights and interests of parties such “that the case law and the APA would require something more than what [Defendants have] done to implement this rule.” Ex. B (Hrg. Tr.) 22:6-8; *see* Ex. A (Mem. Order) 2-4. The IFR violates the procedural requirements of the APA by foregoing notice and comment prior to implementation, because it is not merely an “internal house-keeping” procedural rule. *AFL-CIO v. NLRB*, 57 F.4th 1023, 1034 (D.C. Cir. 2023) (quoting *Am. Hosp. Ass’n v. Bowen*, 834 F.2d 1037, 1045 (D.C. Cir. 1987)). Instead, it represents a “substantive change in existing . . . policy” that imposes new burdens. *Mendoza v. Perez*, 754 F.3d 1002, 1021 (D.C. Cir. 2014); *see Nat’l Ass’n of Home Health Agencies v. Schweiker*, 690 F.2d 932, 949 (D.C. Cir. 1982) (finding a rule changing a sixteen-year-old policy that imposes new burdens not to be procedural).

The IFR exposes the newly regulated to new criminal liability, because noncitizens who were ineligible to use any of the designated registration forms were under no enforceable obligation to register or to carry any proof of registration. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a) (making it a crime to “*willfully* fail[] or refuse[]” to register) (emphasis added); *United States v. Mendez-Lopez*, 528 F. Supp. 972, 974 (N.D. Okla. 1981) (dismissing criminal failure to carry proof of

registration card for noncitizen not able to register); *United States v. Claudio-Becerra*, No. PO 08-2305, 2008 WL 11451346, at \*3 (D.N.M. Aug. 28, 2008) (dismissing failure to register charge for failure to establish defendant had “knowledge of his duty to apply for registration and be fingerprinted” and “deliberately failed or refused to apply for registration”); *see also Bryan v. United States*, 524 U.S. 184, 191–92 (1998) (“willful” conduct requires “a ‘bad purpose’” and proof “that the defendant acted with knowledge that his conduct was unlawful”) (cleaned up)). Rules that impose criminal sanctions “should be held to the strict letter of the APA.” *United States v. Picciotto*, 875 F.2d 345, 346 (D.C. Cir. 1989).

The IFR also trenches on the Fifth Amendment rights of those required to register, who must report any uncharged criminal conduct in Form G-325R and who, by simply registering using a form targeting those who entered the country in violation of 8 U.S.C. §1325, are providing “a significant ‘link in the chain’ of evidence tending to establish [their] guilt.” *Marchetti v. United States*, 390 U.S. 39, 48 (1968); *see Grosso v. United States*, 390 U.S. 62, 68 (1968). There is “ample reason to fear” that such a link would lead to prosecution. *Leary v. United States*, 395 U.S. 6, 16 (1969); *see supra* at 12.

The IFR similarly burdens the First Amendment rights, *see supra* at 13-14, and the privacy rights of those newly required to register, *see Elec. Priv. Info. Ctr.*

*v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, 653 F.3d 1, 6 (D.C. Cir. 2011) (finding a security screening method that resulted in a greater invasion of “personal privacy” constituted a “new substantive burden”).

The IFR also violates the substantive requirements of the APA because it, *inter alia*: (a) fails to acknowledge or explain the change in 80-year-old policy, *Am. Wild Horse Pres. Campaign v. Perdue*, 873 F.3d 914, 923 (D.C. Cir. 2017); (b) fails to consider the Fifth and First Amendment implications of the new rule; (c) fails to address the evident barriers to accessing the online-only, English-only registration process for elderly, disabled, impoverished, or limited-English-proficient noncitizens; and (d) does not consider the needless burden placed on those who have pending or even granted applications for congressionally-authorized immigration relief, *see infra* at 21. Defendants’ failure to consider these important factors was arbitrary and capricious. *See Motor Vehicle Mfrs. Ass’n of U.S., Inc. v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 463 U.S. 29, 42-43 (1983).

## **II. PLAINTIFFS’ HARM IS IRREPARABLE**

Plaintiffs’ harm described above is irreparable. Members of Plaintiff organizations who are directly regulated by the IFR do not speak English and have difficulty accessing the Internet, putting them at imminent risk of prosecution and detention for failure to register. *See* Ex. I (“Ana” Decl.) ¶¶ 5, 8; Ex. J (“Gloria” Decl.) ¶¶ 7, 9. For individuals like CHIRLA member Ursela and MRNY member

Guvelia, who have pending immigration applications under congressionally authorized forms of relief, the IFR's registration requirement causes irreparable harm because those applications do not count as registration documents or evidence of registration, *see* 90 Fed. Reg. at 11794-95, and these members now must undergo the separate G-325R process to register and provide far more information to the government. Ex. L ("Ursela" Decl.) ¶ 4; Ex. N ("Guvelia" Decl.) ¶ 9. In the case of Guvelia, who has applied for a U visa as a victim of crime, and CHIRLA member Tiana, who has begun the process of self-petitioning under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the G325-R process contains none of the statutory confidentiality protections that U visa and VAWA submission provide. *See* Ex. N ("Guvelia" Decl.) ¶ 9; Ex. M ("Tiana" Decl.) ¶ 5; 8 U.S.C. §1367. These members thus face irreparable harm from the IFR's requirement to provide personal information that Defendants explicitly intend to use for immigration enforcement, while these individuals are awaiting Congressionally authorized forms of immigration relief.

In addition, as discussed above, members of Plaintiff organizations are irreparably harmed because the registration requirement including its disclosure of First Amendment protected activity would deter a person of "ordinary firmness" from exercising their First Amendment rights. The IFR's requirement that members such as Ursela admit to the crime of improper entry under 8 U.S.C. §1325 is also



an irreparable harm. Federal criminal prosecutions for failure to register under 8 U.S.C. §1304 have begun, underscoring the irreparable nature of that harm. *See* Ex. U (Cisneros Decl.); Ex. H (Criminal Complaints). Finally, harm to CHIRLA as an organization is irreparable because the IFR is already impacting its core programmatic work in a manner that, among other injuries, threatens its current grant deliverables. *See Cath. Legal Immigr. Network*, 513 F. Supp. 3d at 176; *Nw. Immigr. Rts. Project*, 496 F. Supp. 3d at 80.

### **III. THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND THE BALANCE OF THE EQUITIES TIP IN PLAINTIFFS' FAVOR**

The balance of equities tips in Plaintiffs' favor and the public interest favors an injunction. "[I]t has been well established in this Circuit that '[t]he public interest is served when administrative agencies comply with their obligations under the APA.'" *Ramirez v. U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't*, 568 F. Supp. 3d 10, 35 (D.D.C. 2021) (quoting *R.I.L.-R v. Johnson*, 80 F. Supp. 3d 164, 191 (D.D.C. 2015)) (collecting cases). Until three weeks ago, the government had not enforced a universal registration requirement and attendant criminal penalties since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Given that longstanding state of affairs, the balance of equities favors "a preliminary injunction that serves only to preserve the relative positions of the parties until a trial on the merits can be held." *Texas Child. 's Hosp. v. Burwell*, 76 F. Supp. 3d 224, 245 (D.D.C. 2014) (quoting *Camenisch*, 451 U.S. at 396).

## CONCLUSION

Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter a stay or, in the alternative, an injunction pending appeal.

Dated: May 2, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Damiano Pearson\*\*  
Cassandra Charles\*\*  
Joanna Cuevas Ingram\*\*  
National Immigration Law Center  
P.O. Box 34573  
Washington, D.C. 20043  
Tel: (213) 639-3900  
Fax: (213) 639-3911  
damianopearson@nilc.org  
charles@nilc.org  
cuevasingram@nilc.org

Jennifer R. Coberly (Bar No. 63914)  
American Immigration Lawyers  
Association  
1331 G. St. NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: (202) 507-7692  
Jcoberly@AILA.org

Nicholas Katz\*\*  
CASA, Inc.  
8151 15th Avenue  
Hyattsville, MD 20783  
Tel: (240) 491-5743  
nkatz@wearecasa.org

/s/ Michelle Lapointe  
Michelle Lapointe (Bar No. 54940)  
Emma Winger\*  
Leslie K. Dellon (Bar No. 27795)  
Chris Opila\*  
American Immigration Council  
PMB2026  
2001 L Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: (202) 507-7645  
ewinger@immcouncil.org  
mlapointe@immcouncil.org  
ldellon@immcouncil.org  
copila@immcouncil.org

Cody Wofsy (Bar No. 61550)  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Foundation,  
Immigrants' Rights Project  
425 California St, 7th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Tel: (415) 343-0770  
cwofsy@aclu.org

Anthony Enriquez (Bar No. 66138)  
Sarah T. Gillman (Bar No. 61974)  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
88 Pine Street, Suite 801  
New York, NY 10005  
(917) 284-6355

enriquez@rfkhumanrights.org  
gillman@rfkhumanrights.org

Sarah E. Decker\*\*  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
1300 19th Street NW, Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 559-4432  
decker@rfkhumanrights.org

\* *Application for admission pending*

\*\* *Application for admission forthcoming*

**CERTIFICATE OF PARTIES AND AMICI CURIAE AND CORPORATE  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 26.1 and Circuit Rules 27(a)(4) and 28(a)(1)(A), Plaintiffs-Appellants certify that the following parties appeared before the district court or this Court:

1. Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, *Plaintiff-Appellant*
2. United Farm Workers of America, *Plaintiff-Appellant*
3. CASA, Inc., *Plaintiff-Appellant*
4. Make the Road New York, *Plaintiff-Appellant*
5. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *Defendant-Appellee*
6. Kristi Noem, in her official capacity as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, *Defendant-Appellee*
7. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Defendant-Appellee*
8. Kika Scott, in her official capacity as Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director, *Defendant-Appellee*
9. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *Defendant-Appellee*
10. Todd Lyons, in his official capacity as Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, *Defendant-Appellee*
11. U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *Defendant-Appellee*

12. Pete R. Flores, in his official capacity as Acting Commissioner, U.S.

Customs and Border Protection, *Defendant-Appellee*

13. U.S. Department of Justice, *Defendant-Appellee*

14. Pamela Bondi, in her official capacity as Attorney General, *Defendant-Appellee*

No amici or intervenors appeared before the district court or this Court.

Plaintiffs-Appellants further state that none of the aforementioned Plaintiffs has any parent companies, subsidiaries, or affiliates owning outstanding securities in the hands of the public.

Dated: May 2, 2025

/s/ Michelle Lapointe

Michelle Lapointe

American Immigration Council

*Attorney for Plaintiffs-Appellants*

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 27 and Circuit Rule 27,  
Plaintiffs-Appellants certify:

1. This motion complies with the type-volume limitation of Fed. R. App. P. 27(d)(2)(A) because it contains 5,193 words, excluding those parts exempted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(f) and 27(a)(2)(B).
2. This motion complies with the typeface and type style requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 27(a)(1)(E), 32(a)(5) and 32(a)(6) because the brief has been prepared in Times New Roman 14-point font using Microsoft Word for Microsoft Office 365.

Dated: May 2, 2025

*/s/ Michelle Lapointe*

Michelle Lapointe

American Immigration Council

*Attorney for Plaintiffs-Appellants*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Plaintiffs-Appellants certify that the foregoing was filed with the Clerk using the appellate CM/ECF system on May 2, 2025. All counsel of record are registered CM/ECF users, and service will be accomplished by the CM/ECF system.

Dated: May 2, 2025

/s/ Michelle Lapointe

Michelle Lapointe

American Immigration Council

*Attorney for Plaintiffs-Appellants*

**EXHIBIT A, DIST. CT ECF NO. 27**

**MEMORANDUM ORDER DENYING  
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY  
INJUNCTION**



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**COALITION FOR HUMANE  
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS**, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY**, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:25-cv-00943 (TNM)

**MEMORANDUM ORDER**

Advocacy organizations serving immigrant communities bring a motion to stay the effective date of an interim final rule issued by the Department of Homeland Security. They alternatively move for a preliminary injunction. Plaintiffs allege that the challenged Rule creates a form that previously unregistered aliens must complete to comply with statutory registration requirements. Plaintiffs also allege that the Rule directs these previously unregistered aliens to provide biographic and biometric information and always carry proof of registration.

The Court cannot reach the merits of these claims. Plaintiffs have failed to show that they have a substantial likelihood of standing. As organizations, many of their harms are too speculative, and they have failed to show that the Rule will erode their core missions. Nor may Plaintiffs derive standing from their members. Plaintiffs have not shown that any individual member possesses a concrete harm cognizable by an Article III court.

I.

A.

The story behind this case begins in 1940, when Congress enacted the Smith Act, also known as the Alien Registration Act. Pub. L. No. 76-670, 54 Stat. 670 (codified at 8 U.S.C. § 451) (repealed 1952). This Act instructed aliens (excluding foreign government officials and their families) who were present in the United States, 14 years or older, and who remained in the country for at least 30 days to register and be fingerprinted at a local post office. *See id.* §§ 31(b), 32(b), 33(a), 54 Stat. at 673–674. Upon registration, the alien was issued form AR-3, a registration receipt that itself conferred no immigration status or benefit. *See Policy Manual*, U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services, <https://perma.cc/Q87R-AX7Z>.

Over the decades, the administrative state would dilute these statutory requirements by regulation. In 1944, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) eliminated the division responsible for universal registration and shifted registration from post offices to ports of entry and INS offices. *See Flexoline Index (Flex)*, U.S. National Archives, <https://perma.cc/5PKF-LPZD>. And in 1950, the INS suspended the use of the AR-3. 15 Fed. Reg. 579 (Feb. 2, 1950). Instead, the INS subbed in preexisting immigration forms that were only available to aliens with *legal* immigration status, like the Form I-151 for lawful permanent residents or the Form I-94 for aliens with a record of lawful entry. *Id.* at 579–580. So through regulation, aliens who had entered the country illegally were effectively exempt from the statutory registration requirements, since there existed no process by which they could register.

This statutory and regulatory dissonance continued with the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (INA). This statute supplanted the Smith Act. But it incorporated its registration mandates. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act, Pub. L. No. 82-414, §§ 261–64, 66 Stat. 163, 223–25 (codified at 8 U.S.C. §§ 1201(b), 1301–1306) (1952). The statute requires

that visa applicants be registered through the visa process. 8 U.S.C. §§ 1301, 1201(b). And for those not registered this way, the INA includes provisions for registration and fingerprinting of all aliens over the age of 14 who remain at least 30 days, and similarly to require parents to register their children. *See id.* § 1302(a), (b). It also adds onto the Smith Act by adding a requirement that aliens ages 18 and older carry proof of this registration “at all times.” *Id.* § 1304(e). More, the INA makes it a crime to “willfully fail[]” to register or be fingerprinted, punishable by a fine or up to six months of imprisonment. *Id.* § 1306(a).

The implementing regulations are a bit different. They first provided that the only available registration form for aliens who were not lawful permanent residents was a record of lawful admission and departure (Form I-94). *See* 17 Fed. Reg. 11532, 11533 (Dec. 19, 1952). Over the years, as Congress created additional forms of immigration status, the INS added some of these forms as proxies for the registration document demanded by the statute. But still, this means that the only aliens who are registered are those with legal immigration status; the regulations do not include a nondiscretionary registration form for an alien who entered illegally.<sup>1</sup> More, in 1960, the INS removed the carry requirement from the Code of Federal Regulations. *Compare* 22 Fed. Reg. 9805, 9806 (Dec. 6, 1957) (requiring “Carrying and possession of proof of alien registration.”), *with* 25 Fed. Reg. 7180, 7181 (July 29, 1960) (no carry requirement).

This scheme persisted for decades. But in January 2025, President Trump switched course. He instructed the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Attorney

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<sup>1</sup> At a motions hearing, the Government at first suggested that aliens who illegally entered the United States could obtain a Notice to Appear (“NTA”) from a port of entry to satisfy the statutory registration requirement. Hr’g Tr. 24:3–18. It then walked back that assertion, conceding that an NTA was a discretionary prosecutorial document that would not be available to every alien upon request. Hr’g Tr. 42:13–21.

General and the Secretary of State, to “[i]mmediately announce and publicize information about the legal obligation of all previously unregistered aliens in the United States to comply with the requirements of the [registration statutes]”; to “[e]nsure that all previously unregistered aliens in the United States comply with the requirements of the [registration statutes]”; and to “[e]nsure that the failure to comply with the legal obligations of [the registration statutes] is treated as a civil and criminal enforcement priority.” Exec. Order No. 141509, *Protecting the American People Against Invasion*, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443, 8444 (Jan. 20, 2025).

Last month, the Department of Homeland Security obeyed. DHS published an Interim Final Rule creating a new online general registration form, Form G-325R. *See* 90 Fed. Reg. 11793, 11795–96, 11800. The Interim Final Rule allows for submitting a Form G-325R to register under the statute and regulations and the proof of filing a G-325R as evidence of registration under the statute and regulations. Plaintiffs argue that this broadens the requirement of registration to aliens who do not have immigration forms obtained through preexisting immigration programs. By its terms, the Interim Final Rule is set to go into effect on April 11, 2025.

## **B.**

Before that could happen, Plaintiffs filed this suit, seeking a stay of the effective date of the Interim Final Rule or, in the alternative, a preliminary injunction. *See* Mot. Stay, ECF No. 4, at 1. Plaintiffs are a handful of nonprofit organizations serving immigrant communities: the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles (CHIRLA), United Farmworkers of America, Make the Road New York, and CASA. *See* Compl., ECF No. 1, at ¶¶ 6–13. These organizations are member-based and comprise many aliens and citizens who belong to mixed-status families. *See id.*

Plaintiffs allege that the Interim Final Rule was issued in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act because it is a legislative rule but was published without notice or an opportunity for public comment. Compl. ¶¶ 103–107; *see* 5 U.S.C. §§ 553(b) and (c), 706(2)(D). More, they insist that the Interim Final Rule is arbitrary and capricious. Compl. ¶¶ 108–109; *see* 5 U.S. § 706(2)(A). They seek relief before the rule goes into effect.

The Government opposes relief. Opp’n Br., ECF No. 15, at 1. It contends that Plaintiffs are unlikely to succeed on the merits of their claim because they lack standing to bring it. *Id.* And even if this Court had jurisdiction to issue relief, the Government insists that the Interim Final Rule is a procedural rule immune from notice and comment requirements. *Id.* More, the Government asserts that the rule is not arbitrary and capricious. *Id.*

The Court held a motions hearing earlier this week. *See* Minute Order April 8, 2025. The motion is now ripe for disposition.

## II.

A preliminary injunction is “an extraordinary and drastic remedy” that is “never awarded as of right.” *Munaf v. Geren*, 553 U.S. 674, 689–90 (2008) (cleaned up). The movant faces a high bar for success, as it must establish four elements by “a clear showing”: First, that it is likely to succeed on the merits. *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20, 22 (2008). “Merits” here encapsulates “not only substantive theories but also establishment of jurisdiction.” *Food & Water Watch, Inc. v. Vilsack*, 808 F.3d 905, 913 (D.C. Cir. 2015). Second, the plaintiff must show that it will likely suffer irreparable harm in the absence of injunctive relief. *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 20. Third, that the balance of equities favors granting the relief. *Id.* And fourth, that the public interest favors the injunction. *Id.* Where, as here, the Government is the party

opposing injunctive relief, the latter two factors “merge.” *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418, 435 (2009).

Under 5 U.S.C. § 705, courts may “issue all necessary and appropriate process to postpone the effective date of an agency action or to preserve status or rights pending conclusion of the review proceedings.” The same factors for issuance of a preliminary injunction apply to issuance of a stay under § 705. *District of Columbia v. U.S. Dep’t of Agric.*, 444 F. Supp. 3d 1, 15 (D.D.C. 2020).

### III.

Plaintiffs have not shown that they are likely to succeed on the merits. They have failed to demonstrate that they have standing to bring this suit. *See Env’t Working Group v. Food & Drug Admin.*, 301 F. Supp. 3d 165, 170 (D.D.C. 2018) (noting the party invoking federal jurisdiction bears the burden of establishing it).

Standing is a “bedrock constitutional requirement.” *United States v. Texas*, 599 U.S. 670, 675 (2023). It requires that a plaintiff “possess a personal stake” in the outcome, which “helps ensure that courts decide litigants’ legal rights in specific cases, as Article III requires.” *Food & Drug Admin. v. All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. 367, 379 (2024). Standing doctrine thus “serves to protect the ‘autonomy’ of those who are most directly affected so that they can decide whether and how to challenge the defendant’s action.” *Id.* at 379–80. And it ensures that “the Framers’ concept of the proper—and properly limited—role of the courts in a democratic society” is vindicated, by ensuring decisions meant for the political process are left to the political process. John Roberts, *Article III Limits on Statutory Standing*, 42 Duke L. J. 1219, 1220 (1993).

To establish standing, a plaintiff must show that it “has suffered or likely will suffer an injury in fact”; “that the injury likely was caused or will be caused by the defendant”; and “that the injury likely would be redressed by the requested judicial relief.” *All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. at 380. Where, as here, the plaintiffs are organizations, there are two ways to satisfy this test. *See Abigal All. for Better Access to Developmental Drugs v. Eschenbach*, 469 F.3d 129, 132 (D.C. Cir. 2006). First, an organizational plaintiff can bring action “on its own behalf,” which is known as “organizational standing.” *Id.* Second, a plaintiff organization can demonstrate standing by bringing a claim “on behalf of its members,” also known as “associational standing.” *Id.* Plaintiffs fail both options here.

Start with organizational standing. For an organizational plaintiff to demonstrate that it has suffered an injury in fact, it must show “more than a frustration of its purpose,” since mere hindrance to a nonprofit’s mission “is the type of abstract concern that does not impart standing.” *Food & Water Watch, Inc.*, 808 F.3d at 919 (cleaned up). Instead, for an organization to have standing, it must have “suffered a concrete and demonstrable injury to [its] activities.” *PETA v. USDA*, 797 F.3d 1087, 1093 (D.C. Cir. 2015). That is, the defendant’s conduct must have “perceptibly impaired the organization’s ability to provide services” and the organization must have then “used its resources to counteract that harm.” *Turlock Irrigation Dist. v. FERC*, 786 F.3d 18, 24 (D.C. Cir. 2015) (cleaned up); *PETA*, 797 F.3d at 1094.

But it is not enough if the organization merely “diverts its resources in response to a defendant’s actions” such that it has not been “subjected . . . to operational costs beyond those normally expended” to fulfill its core aims. *All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. at 395; *Nat’l Taxpayers Union, Inc. v. United States*, 68 F.3d 1428, 1434 (D.C. Cir. 1995). Instead, the organization must show that the defendant’s conduct has forced it to “expend resources in a

manner that keeps [it] from pursuing its true purpose[s]” or has “directly affected and interfered with” the organization’s “core . . . activities.” *Nat’l Taxpayers Union, Inc.*, 68 F.3d at 1434; *All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. at 395.

For an illustration of this distinction, compare *Food & Water Watch* with *PETA*. In *Food & Water Watch*, one of plaintiff’s primary purposes as an organization was “to educate the public about food systems that guarantee safe, wholesome food produced in a sustainable manner.” *Food & Water Watch, Inc.*, 808 F.3d at 920. The organization brought a challenge to a new system promulgated by the government that decentralized poultry inspection processes. *See id.* at 910–11. The organizational plaintiff asserted it would suffer harm if the proposed system went into effect, as it “would have to increase the resources that it spends on educating the general public and its members” about poultry inspection protocols and poultry safety. *Id.* at 920. It also claimed that it would be forced to “increase the amount of resources that it spends encouraging its members who wish to continue to eat chicken to avoid poultry” from companies utilizing the new system and “to purchase poultry at farmers’ markets or direct from producers.” *Id.* But this was not enough. The D.C. Circuit held that the organization lacked standing to challenge the new system, stressing that it had “alleged no more than an abstract injury to its interests.” *Id.* Although the organization “allege[d] that [it] w[ould] spend resources educating its members and the public about” the new provisions, nothing in its declarations “indicate[d] that [plaintiff’s] organizational activities [were] perceptibly impaired in any way.” *Id.* at 921.

Now consider *PETA*. There, PETA challenged the government’s refusal to apply the Animal Welfare Act’s general animal welfare regulations to birds. 797 F.3d at 1089. The court found PETA had standing to do so. It stressed that one of the “primary” ways PETA accomplished its mission of “prevent[ing] cruelty and inhumane treatment of animals” was by



“educating the public” through “providing information about the conditions of animals held by particular exhibitors.” *Id.* at 1094 (cleaned up). But the USDA’s refusal to protect birds meant “that the USDA was not creating bird-related inspection reports that PETA could use to raise public awareness.” *Id.* at 1091. More, the agency’s failure to apply the AWA’s animal welfare regulations to birds stripped PETA of the ability to file a formal complaint with the agency to seek redress for mistreatment. *Id.* Thus PETA “had to expend resources to seek relief through other, less efficient and effective means.” *Id.* Given these harms, the court concluded that the government’s conduct “perceptibly impaired PETA’s ability to both bring AWA violations to the attention of the agency charged with preventing avian cruelty and continue to educate the public.”<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 1095. In short, organizations whose activities have been impeded by the government suffer a cognizable injury, while organizations whose missions have only been compromised do not. *Abigail All. for Better Access to Developmental Drugs*, 469 F.3d at 133.

This case looks less like the organizational impediment in *PETA* and more like the organizational expansion in *Food & Water Watch*. Out of the Plaintiffs, only CHIRLA claims organizational standing. Pls.’ Reply Br., ECF No. 20, at 5. But there are a few issues with this claim. First, CHIRLA’s injuries are highly speculative, sounding in prospective fears about what might happen when the rule takes effect. CHIRLA projects that “it expects thousands of individuals are likely to reach out for assistance and advice with the new registration process.” Decl. A. Salas, ECF No. 4-2, ¶ 17. And it expects that “[a]ddressing this volume of community

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<sup>2</sup> *PETA* sits near the outer edge of organizational standing, as its analysis arguably granted standing in a situation the Supreme Court has said an individual would lack it. *See PETA*, 797 F.3d at 1099–1106 (Millett, J., dubitante). The Supreme Court has also noted that the precedential origin of organizational standing doctrine—*Havens Realty Corp. v. Coleman*, 455 U.S. 363 (1982)—“was an unusual case” that the Court “has been careful not to extend . . . beyond its context.” *All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. at 396. This Court heeds these words of caution in applying binding precedent here.

needs will impact multiple programs and will strain its staff and budget.” *Id.* It also expresses anxiety that the anticipated demand for “legal advice and assistance with the registration” may cause it to fail to meet certain grant conditions and thus face withheld disbursements. *Id.* ¶ 19.

But “[a]s [the Supreme Court] ha[s] said many times, conjectural or hypothetical injuries do not suffice for Article III standing.” *Clinton v. City of New York*, 524 U.S. 417, 459 (1998) (Scalia, J., concurring in part). CHIRLA’s feared harms have yet to come to fruition, and they very well may never manifest. They rely on the choices of an unspecified volume of intervening third parties—the aliens who may or may not demand an indefinite amount of CHIRLA’s resources. “When the existence of one or more of the essential elements of standing . . . depends on the unfettered choices made by independent actors not before the courts and whose exercise of broad and legitimate discretion the courts cannot presume either to control or to predict, it becomes substantially more difficult to establish standing.” *Scenic Am., Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Transp.*, 836 F.3d 42, 50 (D.C. Cir. 2016) (cleaned up). CHIRLA might not be so taxed by a swell of inquiries regarding the registration requirements that they lose funding. There are no numbers before the Court to even suggest as much, nor is there any evidence from the grant providers that termination looms. Without facts, the Court has uncorroborated fear. But Article III requires more than maybes—it demands that harms be “actual or imminent.” *Whitmore v. Arkansas*, 495 U.S. 149, 155 (1990). CHIRLA has not shown as much here.

More, CHIRLA cannot demonstrate that the Interim Final Rule has “perceptibly impaired” its mission. *Nat’l Ass’n of Home Builders v. E.P.A.*, 667 F.3d 6, 12 (D.C. Cir. 2011). There is certainly no claim that the Government is blocking CHIRLA from carrying out its mission, unlike the agency’s inaction in *PETA*, 797 F.3d at 1094-95, or an agency’s restriction of information in *Action Alliance of Senior Citizens v. Heckler*, 789 F.2d 931, 935–38 (D.C. Cir.

1986). Rather, CHIRLA insists that the “community members [it] serves have already begun reaching out to its hotline and at community events with questions about the registration requirement, leading staff to reallocate their time to addressing concerns and revising materials and presentations to address these growing concerns.” Decl. A Salas ¶ 15.

But mere “self-serving observation[s]” that an organization will “have to increase the resources that it spends on educating the general public and its members” about the consequences of government regulation are “insufficient to support standing.” *Nat’l Taxpayers Union, Inc.*, 68 F.3d at 1434. So are broad claims that an organization has “divert[ed] its resources in response to a defendant’s actions.” *All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. at 395. When a nonprofit merely expands its operations to address increased demands in the communities it serves, its activities have not been tampered with. *Cf. League of Women Voters of United States v. Newby*, 838 F.3d 1, 8 (D.C. Cir. 2016) (holding mission of voting rights organizations was perceptibly impaired where proof-of-citizenship laws “presented formidable obstacles to [the organizations’] registration efforts.”). Arguably, these enhanced advocacy efforts are a *fulfillment* of an organization’s mission. In other words, “the Final Rule has not impeded [CHIRLA’s] programmatic concerns and activities, but fueled them.” *Elec. Priv. Info. Ctr. v. U.S. Dep’t of Educ.*, 48 F. Supp. 3d 1, 23 (D.D.C. 2014). Indeed, “the expenditures that [CHIRLA] has made in response to the Final Rule have not kept it from pursuing its true purpose as an organization but have contributed to its pursuit of its purpose.” *Id.*

CHIRLA’s own descriptions of its pursuits only undergird this conclusion. CHIRLA describes its mission as “ensur[ing] that immigrant communities are fully integrated into our society with full rights and access to resources.” Decl. A. Salas, ¶ 3. “In furtherance of its mission, CHIRLA handles the full spectrum of needs of those primarily residing within low-

income immigrant communities” near Los Angeles. *Id.* ¶ 4. One of CHIRLA’s primary programs is “a hotline where individuals—including members, clients, and community members can call with questions.” *Id.* ¶ 8. “Given CHIRLA’s deep community ties and longstanding legal services programs, CHIRLA is often a first point of contact for individuals seeking information about recent policy changes impacting immigrants.” *Id.* ¶ 8.

It would be odd if CHIRLA could assert that its core services have been impaired by using these very services to educate its members about the Interim Final Rule. Sure, the Rule may have caused CHIRLA to rearrange some labor and resources to meet the increased demand from this unexpected policy. But organizations have not suffered a concrete injury just because shifts in government policy demand shifts in internal operations. *Accord Env’t Working Group*, 301 F. Supp. 3d at 172. If that were the case, an organization could claim injury-in-fact nearly any time there was a change in the law relevant to its mission. That cannot be the law. And indeed it is not—organizations only suffer concrete injury if a challenged government action has made their advocacy efforts “more difficult to achieve, thereby requiring ‘operational costs beyond those normally expended to . . . educate’ about matters that might relate to the organization[’s] mission.” *Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of Am. v. U.S. Dep’t of Agric.*, 573 F. Supp. 3d 324, 343 (D.D.C. 2021) (quoting *Nat’l Taxpayers Union*, 68 F.3d at 1434). CHIRLA simply has not shown that here.

That leaves the possibility of associational standing.<sup>3</sup> An organization has standing to bring suit on behalf of its members when three requirements are met. First, “its members would

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<sup>3</sup> Many legal scholars have doubted the constitutionality of associational standing. *See All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. at 400 (Thomas, J., concurring) (“I thus have serious doubts that an association can have standing to vicariously assert a member’s injury) (citing amici). The Court, of course, is bound by existing precedent.

otherwise have standing to sue in their own right.” *Hunt v. Wash. State Apple Advert. Comm’n*, 432 U.S. 333, 343 (1977). Second, “the interests it seeks to protect are germane to the organization’s purpose.” *Id.* And third, “neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires the participation of individual members in the lawsuit.” *Id.* Plaintiffs here stumble at the first step. They have failed to show that any of their individual members would independently have standing to challenge the Interim Final Rule.

Associational standing fails for two independent reasons. The first problem is that Plaintiffs have failed to adduce sufficient evidence to support their allegations. The only allegations of concrete harm to individual members that Plaintiffs present are in the form of pseudonymous hearsay. That is, the organizations are describing the harms their members have suffered while using false names for those members. *See, e.g.*, Decl. G. Escobar ¶ 14 (“ME is a CASA member” who “is afraid to register, because it could expose himself and his family, including his wife who is also undocumented, to the risk of detention and deportation.”). The Court has no sworn testimony from the members themselves. More, these pseudonymous reports are contained in affidavits submitted by the organizations, which are themselves hearsay evidence. *See Kareem v. Trump*, 404 F. Supp. 3d 203, 215 & n.3 (D.D.C. 2019), *aff’d as modified*, 960 F.3d 656 (D.C. Cir. 2020); *see also Humane Soc. v. Animal & Plant Health Inspec. Serv.*, 386 F. Supp. 3d 34, 44 (D.D.C. 2019) (refusing to rely on “second-hand, unsubstantiated accounts” in defendant’s declarations). This means all the Court has to go on is hearsay-within-hearsay.

While “a preliminary injunction is customarily granted on the basis of procedures that are less formal and evidence that is less complete than in a trial on the merits,” and courts often rely on affidavits “for the limited purpose of determining whether to award a preliminary injunction,”

stretching these exceptions to hearsay-within-hearsay strikes the Court as a step too far. *Univ. of Texas v. Camenisch*, 451 U.S. 390, 395 (1981); *Mullins v. City of New York*, 626 F.3d 47, 52 (2d Cir. 2010). Layered hearsay innately lacks credibility, as it only exacerbates the preexisting veracity issues inherent to typical hearsay. This problem becomes even more pronounced when the underlying testimony is presented under pseudonym, leaving the Court and defense completely unable to verify the testimony. The Court is therefore very wary of this evidence.<sup>4</sup> Most importantly, this nameless double hearsay is going towards the Court’s jurisdiction. And the Court must abide by its unflagging obligation to police its own constitutional bounds. *See Mansfield, C. & L.M. Ry. Co. v. Swan*, 111 U.S. 379, 384 (1884) (“[T]he judicial power of the United States must not be exerted in a case to which it does not extend, even if both parties desire to have it exerted”). Asserting the formidable authority of Article III based only on nameless double hearsay strikes the Court as an exercise in judicial arrogation. The Court declines to engage in such acts of personal aggrandizement.

But even if the Court were to credit the double hearsay, the Plaintiffs have failed to articulate a viable theory of associational standing. Plaintiffs’ primary conception of their members’ injury is that the members are “directly regulated parties.” Pl’s Reply at 2. That is, Plaintiffs insist that their members have suffered an injury-in-fact by having “to submit Form G-325R, provide biometrics, and carry proof of this registration as proscribed by the IFR at all times or face arrest and federal prosecution.” *Id.*

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<sup>4</sup> Plaintiffs point to a handful of cases to argue that this evidence can properly be considered. *See* Pls.’ Notice Suppl. Authority, ECF No. 26, at 1–2. But only one of the cases that Plaintiffs cite permitted double hearsay. *S. Poverty L. Ctr. v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 2020 WL 3265533, at \*3 n.2 (D.D.C. June 17, 2020). That case is different. There, one of the challenged affidavits was not under pseudonym, came directly from one of the organization’s clients, and tended to verify the accuracy of testimony contained in the other affidavits. *Id.* at \*3; Decl. A. Sanchez Martinez, ECF No. 105-2, No. 1:18-cv-00760.

But Plaintiffs have failed to show that the mere requirement to abide by the law—even if true that the accompanying regulation flouted procedural requirements when enacted—constitutes a concrete injury for standing purposes. Plaintiffs’ briefing and oral argument had no claim that such a harm “has a close relationship to a harm traditionally recognized as providing a basis for a lawsuit in American courts.” *TransUnion LLC v. Ramirez*, 594 U.S. 413, 440 (2021). That inquiry is “[c]entral to assessing concreteness.” *Id.* at 417.

As made clear by the Supreme Court in *TransUnion*, plaintiffs must “identif[y] a close historical or common-law analogue for their asserted injury” to demonstrate their asserted injury is concrete. *Id.* at 424. Certain harms readily fit this bill, such as “traditional tangible harms” like “physical harms and monetary harms.” *Id.* at 425. “Various intangible harms can also be concrete,” such as those traditionally remediable by the common law of contract, tort, and property. *See id.* (listing reputational harm and intrusion upon seclusion as examples). More, “harms specified by the Constitution itself” are thought to be traditionally cognizable. *Id.*

Plaintiffs have not shown how merely being subject to a regulation—without incurring some other injury—fits within this framework. They have not attempted to analogize their members’ predicament to harms traditionally cognizable in American courts. Nor does a historical analogue so readily come to mind such that explanation could be thought superfluous. But “[a]s the party invoking federal jurisdiction, the plaintiffs bear the burden of demonstrating that they have standing.” *Id.* at 430–31.

Plaintiffs point to *City of Clarksville v. FERC*, 888 F.3d 477, 482 (D.C. Cir. 2018), to argue that subjection to new regulatory requirements can confer an injury in fact. Pls.’ Reply at 3. This reliance is misplaced. First, this case was decided before the sea change *TransUnion* imparted upon standing doctrine. *See Dinerstein v. Google, LLC*, 73 F.4th 502, 522 (7th Cir.

2023) (calling *TransUnion* “a watershed decision on the standing doctrine.”). Thus the Circuit had no occasion to ponder whether the plaintiff’s asserted harm was sufficiently analogous to a historically recognized harm, as *TransUnion* demands.

And second, the case is readily distinguishable. In *City of Clarksville*, the court found that a regulated party had standing to appeal an adverse agency adjudication that subjected the plaintiff to ongoing data retention obligations. *Id.* at 482. Potential common law analogues abound in the data retention context that Plaintiffs have not shown here. For instance, forced data retention imposes real costs on companies, the prototypical type of concrete harm. *City of Clarksdale* cannot excuse the Plaintiffs from meeting their obligation under *TransUnion* to show their “injury bears a ‘close relationship’ to a harm traditionally recognized as providing a basis for a lawsuit in American courts.” *TransUnion*, 594 U.S. at 432.

It is true that courts have occasionally found standing when a plaintiff brings a preenforcement challenge to a law he fears will subject him to criminal penalties if enforced. *See Babbitt v. United Farm Workers Nat’l Union*, 442 U.S. 289, 298 (1979). But in those cases, the plaintiffs also had to show that the challenged law proscribed constitutionally protected conduct in which they imminently intended to engage, *Seegars v. Gonzales*, 396 F.3d 1248, 1251–52 (D.C. Cir. 2005), or that they would “have to take significant and costly compliance measures” to avoid prosecution. *Virginia v. Am. Booksellers Ass’n*, 484 U.S. 383, 392 (1988).

In other words, standing in these risk-of-prosecution cases requires that a plaintiff to show he has been put to an intolerable choice—on the one hand, he can refrain from engaging in protected conduct and incur substantial costs to avoid being penalized under an unlawful measure. On the other hand, he can violate the measure and risk unjustified prosecution. Standing doctrine in preenforcement challenges recognizes that courts can intervene before this



archetypal catch-22. *Susan B. Anthony List v. Driehaus*, 573 U.S. 149, 159 (2014) (“[A] plaintiff satisfies the injury-in-fact requirement where he alleges an intention to engage in a course of conduct *arguably affected with a constitutional interest*, but proscribed by a statute, and there exists a credible threat of prosecution thereunder.”) (emphasis added) (cleaned up); *see also Backpage.com, LLC v. Lynch*, 216 F. Supp. 3d 96, 108 n.5 (D.D.C. 2016) (rejecting plaintiff’s argument that “the injury-in-fact requirement is *automatically* met, if the law is aimed directly at the plaintiff, who, if its interpretation of the statute is correct, is placed at risk of criminal prosecution.”).

But the Plaintiffs here have not shown that their members have been trapped in such a paradox. If there are costly compliance measures, Plaintiffs are mum as to their amount. *See also* 90 Fed. Reg. 11797 (“DHS will incur additional costs due to the added activities from the collection of biometrics given the impacted population of aliens do not pay fees for registration or biometrics.”).

Nor have Plaintiffs shown that the Interim Final Rule penalizes constitutionally protected conduct. Plaintiffs insist that the Rule will force their members “to reveal that they entered the United States without inspection, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1325, a federal criminal misdemeanor.” Mot. Stay at 32. According to Plaintiffs, “[t]his compelled admission violates these members’ Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.” *Id.* Indeed, a major thrust in Plaintiffs’ motion relates to the potential Fifth Amendment implications their members face by completing Form G-325R.

This line of attack fails factually and legally. Factually, because Plaintiffs have failed to demonstrate that any of their members would actually be subject to criminal prosecution based on their answers to Form G-325R. A charge for entry without inspection usually carries a statute

of limitations of five years, which begins to run once a defendant enters the United States. 18 U.S.C. § 3282; Robert J. McWhirter & Jon M. Sands, *A Primer for Defending a Criminal Immigration Case*, 8 Geo. Immigr. L. J. 23, 38 (1994). Nearly all of Plaintiffs’ members have been residing in the United States for far longer than five years. *See* Decl. A Salas ¶¶ 25–27; Decl. E. Strater, ECF No. 4-3, ¶¶ 19–22; Decl. G. Escobar ¶¶ 13–19; Decl. S. Fontaine, ECF No. 4-5, ¶¶ 24–28. And Plaintiffs conceded that their members do not have other crimes to report on the G-325R. Hr’g Tr. at 10:10–13. Thus for nearly all of Plaintiffs’ members, the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination is not implicated.

There is a possible exception: “Ursula,” a CHIRLA member. Decl. A Salas ¶ 23. Ursula “entered the U.S. without inspection in 2023 as an unaccompanied minor when she was 17.” *Id.* Perhaps she could be subject to prosecution for an illegal entry misdemeanor. Yet Plaintiffs waffled on whether Ursula would be subject to criminal prosecution as an adult for illegal entry as a juvenile. Hr’g Tr. 10:1–3. But does the Government even prosecute juveniles for misdemeanor illegal entry?

Because the burden is on the Plaintiffs to establish their standing, the Court will not go digging into the intricacies of immigration law to deduce whether one member out of dozens could assert a potential infringement of her Fifth Amendment right. *See Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 561 (1992).

But even if Ursula could be prosecuted, her Fifth Amendment claim would fail as a matter of law. A plaintiff can rest her standing on a violation of her right against self-incrimination in two circumstances. First, “where a plaintiff remains silent, asserts the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination, and is then subjected to some sanction or penalty for refusing to testify, [s]he clearly can assert a Fifth Amendment claim.” *Nat’l Treasury*

*Emps. Union v. U.S. Dep't of Treasury*, 25 F.3d 237, 241–42 (5th Cir. 1994). And “[s]econd, where a plaintiff has *refrained* from invoking the privilege, given an incriminating statement, and then seeks to bar the use of the statement in a later criminal proceeding . . . a justiciable claim will surely exist.” *Id.* at 242. Outside of these two circumstances, a plaintiff has not suffered a violation of her right against self-incrimination. *See also Chavez v. Martinez*, 538 U.S. 760, 770 (2003) (“[A] violation of the constitutional *right* against self-incrimination occurs only if one has been compelled to be a witness against himself in a criminal case.”) (plurality opinion of Thomas, J.). In other words, “a Fifth Amendment self-incrimination claim is not ripe until a claim of the privilege is actually made.” *Carman v. Yellen*, 112 F.4th 386, 404 (6th Cir. 2024).

Plaintiffs do not allege that any of their members have actually invoked their Fifth Amendment right, only to be rebuffed. Nor do Plaintiffs even allege that an invocation of the right against self-incrimination on Form G-325R would lead to sanctions. At this point, then, any claims that the members risk a violation of their right against self-incrimination are speculative and premature. *Nat’l Fed’n of Fed. Emps. v. Greenberg*, 983 F.2d 286, 291 (D.C. Cir. 1993) (“Ordinarily, a person must invoke the privilege in order to gain its advantage . . . . The reason is apparent: The Fifth Amendment does not forbid the government from asking questions and it does not forbid the government from taking the answers.”).

That leaves the Plaintiffs’ assertions that Form G-325R chills their members’ protected speech. They assert that “CASA and MRNY members fear that the new registration process, which requires them to report their organizing and advocacy work, will cause immigration authorities to target them based on their First Amendment protected activities.” *Mot. Stay* at 32;

*see, e.g.*, Decl. G. Escobar ¶ 13 (“The IFR has caused [YL] to become more afraid to speak out because she fears that it could expose her and her son to targeting by the federal government.”).


But “allegations of a subjective chill are not . . . adequate” to confer standing. *United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. v. Reagan*, 738 F.2d 1375, 1378 (D.C. Cir. 1984) (cleaned up) (quoting *Laird v. Tatum*, 408 U.S. 1, 13–14 (1972)). Instead, a plaintiff must allege an “imminence of concrete, harmful action such as threatened arrest for specifically contemplated First Amendment activity.” *Id.* at 1380. Here, all Plaintiffs contend is that their members have engaged in self-censorship because they have a conjectural fear that they may be targeted by the Government for their speech. In other words, they have not “point[ed] to anything beyond [their] own subjective apprehension and a personal (self-imposed) unwillingness to communicate.” *Morrison v. Bd. of Educ. of Boyd Cnty.*, 521 F.3d 602, 610 (6th Cir. 2008). What they have *not* done is offered any evidence that they face a “credible threat of prosecution” *for their speech* “under a statute that appears to render [their] arguably protected speech illegal.” *Am. Library Ass’n v. Barr*, 956 F.2d 1178, 1194 (D.C. Cir. 1992). But under controlling law, that is what they had to do. *Laird*, 408 U.S. at 13–14 (holding plaintiffs lacked standing on chilling theory where they could not show “claim of specific present objective harm or a threat of specific future harm” apart from self-imposed chilling).

**IV.**

In sum, Plaintiffs are not likely to succeed on the merits of their claim because they have failed to demonstrate that they have a “substantial likelihood” of standing. *Food & Water Watch, Inc.*, 808 F.3d at 913. Their Motion for a Stay and Preliminary Injunction is accordingly **DENIED.**

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated: April 10, 2025

 2025.04.10  
16:15:30 -04'00'  
TREVOR N. McFADDEN, U.S.D.J.

## **EXHIBIT B, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-1**

### **TRANSCRIPT OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION HEARING**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

\* \* \* \* \*

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT	)	Civil Action
RIGHTS, et al.,	)	No. 25-00943
	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	
	)	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND	)	Washington, D.C.
SECURITY, et al.,	)	April 8, 2025
	)	10:03 a.m.
Defendants.	)	
	)	
* * * * *	)	

TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION HEARING  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE TREVOR N. McFADDEN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

FOR THE PLAINTIFFS:

EMMA C. WINGER, ESQ.  
LESLIE K. DELLON, ESQ.  
MICHELLE LAPOINTE, ESQ.  
AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL  
2001 L Street, Northwest  
Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20036

CODY WOFSY, ESQ.  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
425 California Street  
Seventh Floor  
San Francisco, California 94104

JENNIFER COBERLY, ESQ.  
AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION  
1331 G Street  
Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20005

1 APPEARANCES, CONT'D:

2 FOR THE PLAINTIFFS: ANTHONY ENRIQUEZ, ESQ.  
3 ROBERT F. KENNEDY HUMAN RIGHTS  
4 88 Pine Street  
Suite 801  
New York, New York 10005

5 FOR THE DEFENDANTS: KARTIK N. VENGUSWAMY, ESQ.  
6 U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE  
7 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
601 D Street, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20579

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9 REPORTED BY: LISA EDWARDS, RDR, CRR  
10 Official Court Reporter  
United States District Court for the  
11 District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Room 6706  
12 Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 354-3269  
13  
14  
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1 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: This is Civil Action  
2 25-943, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, et al.,  
3 versus U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et al.

4 Counsel, please come forward to identify  
5 yourselves for the record, starting with the Plaintiff.

6 MS. WINGER: Good morning, your Honor. Emma  
7 Winger on behalf of the Plaintiff.

8 THE COURT: Good morning, Ms. Winger.

9 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Good morning, your Honor. Karlik  
10 Venguswamy from the U.S. Attorney's Office on behalf of the  
11 Defendants.

12 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Venguswamy.

13 All right. We're here for a motion hearing on the  
14 Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction.

15 Ms. Winger, I'll hear from you.

16 MS. WINGER: Good morning, your Honor. Emma  
17 Winger on behalf of the Plaintiffs.

18 This case is about what process Defendants must  
19 follow and what decision-making they must engage in before  
20 they radically alter how non-citizen registration operates  
21 in this country.

22 The Defendants do not dispute that the federal  
23 government has never operated a universal registration and  
24 carry requirement. Across 14 different presidential  
25 administrations, the government has adopted a tailored

1 approach to registration. Except in the context of war or  
2 armed invasion, armed assault, registration has operated  
3 through existing immigration processes.

4 Defendants attempt to categorize the IFR as a  
5 benign measure that merely adds one other method of  
6 registration.

7 But frankly, that's just not true. It ignores the  
8 fact expressly recognized in the IFR and consistent with  
9 longstanding policy that millions of people previously had  
10 no mechanism to register and therefore no enforceable  
11 obligation to register or carry proof of registration at all  
12 times.

13 Defendants' effort to expand registration in this  
14 way is clearly not an internal housekeeping measure that  
15 justifies avoiding notice and comment, and it has likewise  
16 been done in a manner that is arbitrary and capricious. For  
17 those reasons, Plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the  
18 merits.

19 If I may, I'll turn to the notice and comment  
20 argument first.

21 THE COURT: I'll tell you, frankly, I thought the  
22 government primarily focused on standing. And as I look at  
23 it, it feels to me like that's probably the area that I'm  
24 least comfortable with on your argument. So it might be  
25 useful to focus there.

1 MS. WINGER: On standing?

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 MS. WINGER: Yes. Of course.

4 Your Honor, we have plainly established  
5 associational standing here. Our Plaintiffs through their  
6 declarations have identified with particularity multiple  
7 members who are subject to registration and who will suffer  
8 a harm as a result. The members themselves therefore have  
9 standing.

10 And then we meet the second two prongs of the *Hunt*  
11 test, both that the goal of this lawsuit to stop the IFR and  
12 protect their members is germane to the missions of each of  
13 our associational Plaintiffs and that there's no need for  
14 individual participation here. We have purely legal claims.  
15 We're not seeking individualized damages.

16 THE COURT: Ms. Winger, so associational standing,  
17 first, I mean, we get a fair number of associational  
18 standing cases in this courthouse. And my recollection is  
19 that they usually come with affidavits from the members. Is  
20 it appropriate for me to rely on what I take to be hearsay  
21 from pseudonymous members to determine associational  
22 standing?

23 MS. WINGER: Yes, your Honor. As the  
24 pseudonymity --

25 THE COURT: Sit down, please, ma'am. Thank you.

1 MS. WINGER: The issue of pseudonymity -- and  
2 maybe I'll take those two separately. But as to  
3 pseudonymity, the declarations here specify in detail the  
4 way in which each of these members satisfies the  
5 requirements individually for standing. And so the failure  
6 to give a proper name doesn't undermine our ability to again  
7 identify members.

8 We have submitted sworn declarations. The  
9 Defendants here have not challenged the accuracy of those  
10 declarations. They haven't disputed that our individual  
11 members here have standing. And at least certainly at this  
12 stage of the case, those detailed declarations, sworn  
13 declarations, meet the basic elements for associational  
14 standing here.

15 THE COURT: Yes. I guess I'm focused on the  
16 hearsay point. Is it appropriate for me to rely on hearsay  
17 to determine standing?

18 MS. WINGER: At this stage of the game, your  
19 Honor, yes. You know, I think it is. These are -- this is  
20 reliable evidence. The Court can weigh it. And based on  
21 it, based on again the fact that the declarants have  
22 personal knowledge of the details of these particular  
23 members, that in and of itself is sufficient here to find  
24 standing in this case.

25 THE COURT: I thought -- looking through the

1 briefing, I felt like one of the things you focus on -- and  
2 it certainly struck me -- was the form requiring aliens to  
3 state not only whether they have a criminal history, but  
4 whether basically they've ever done anything wrong.

5 MS. WINGER: Yes. Yes.

6 THE COURT: Am I right in thinking that's a  
7 primary focus, kind of trigger of this potential Fifth  
8 Amendment exposure? Is that what you see as one of the  
9 primary problems or one of the primary hooks for your  
10 members to have standing?

11 MS. WINGER: That's right, your Honor.

12 Well, I mean, our primary -- I guess as an initial  
13 matter, our primary hook for standing is that they are now  
14 required to go through a process that previously they didn't  
15 have and weren't required to do. So that's one level of  
16 standing.

17 An additional level of injury here is the Fifth  
18 Amendment concerns that they are being asked directly and  
19 required in fact by the form to confess to uncharged  
20 criminal conduct, that the form itself implicates them  
21 because it is primarily targeted at people who entered  
22 without inspection; in other words, who violated 8 USC 1325.  
23 That is an additional injury.

24 The form also asks them to describe all of their  
25 activities in the country, which for many of these members,

1 they have been vocal, active advocates for CASA, for Make  
2 the Road New York. They would be -- they are under the  
3 terms of the form required to --

4 THE COURT: I'm sorry. Are you saying the form  
5 would require them to say whether or not they've gone to  
6 protests?

7 MS. WINGER: Your Honor, the question on the  
8 form -- and there's no instruction, but the question on the  
9 form specifically says -- I can read it here: Since entry,  
10 in what activities have you been engaged?

11 And for many of these members, including, for  
12 example, Michael at Make the Road, he has been for ten years  
13 an active member of Make the Road. It is a part of his  
14 activities. And unless the government says otherwise, he's  
15 been told to report on those activities.

16 THE COURT: And so your understanding and your  
17 guidance to your members would be, You've got to say  
18 everything that you're a member of, like a member of this  
19 church, a member of that bowling league, a member of this  
20 organization? Is that the legal guidance that you'd be  
21 giving your clients based on this form?

22 MS. WINGER: Well, I guess what I would say, your  
23 Honor, is that 1306(c) makes it a crime to commit -- to  
24 provide false information. And for respondents who are  
25 wishing to be careful and not -- the form itself indicates

1 that they need to produce -- to list at least all of the --  
2 what you might call material activities, key activities.  
3 Here, you know, what my legal advice might be would depend  
4 on the particular circumstances of the person. But the form  
5 speaks for itself, at least in terms of the breadth of --  
6 the information it's seeking to collect.

7 THE COURT: Give me just one moment.

8 Understood. So your position is kind of out of an  
9 abundance of caution, your clients would need to indicate  
10 that they're members of CHIRLA or something?

11 MS. WINGER: I'm not even sure it's an abundance  
12 of caution. But my position is that that is the sort of  
13 information that the form asks for. Yes.

14 THE COURT: And going back to the Fifth Amendment  
15 point, have any of your pseudonymous members actually  
16 admitted to committing crimes with which they would still  
17 face liability -- for which they would still face liability  
18 at that point?

19 MS. WINGER: Within the time --

20 THE COURT: The statute of limitations.

21 MS. WINGER: The statute of limitations? Some of  
22 these members are newly -- new entrants. For example,  
23 Ursula, I believe, who is this 18-year-old member, who  
24 entered at 17 and is applying for asylum and special  
25 juvenile status --

1 THE COURT: So you think she would face criminal  
2 liability for entering as a juvenile?

3 MS. WINGER: She might. Yes, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: It looked like -- I mean, the bulk of  
5 them, you'd agree with me, entered decades ago, it seems  
6 like, and would not face criminal liability for illegal  
7 entry. Do you agree with that?

8 MS. WINGER: A number of them, yes, have been here  
9 for a period of time. That is true.

10 THE COURT: And I didn't see any other crimes that  
11 your pseudonymous members said they would have to divulge  
12 under this form. Do you agree with that?

13 MS. WINGER: I agree with that. Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: If I was to look at -- obviously, your  
15 clients have listed a number of pseudonymous individuals.  
16 Do you have a couple that I should be focused on in  
17 particular? I mean, maybe Ursula. Anybody else you thought  
18 is really kind of your strongest examples for standing?

19 MS. WINGER: For harm?

20 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. WINGER: Yeah. Absolutely. Well, let me --  
22 there are two -- give me one second.

23 So two members of UFW, United Farm Workers, David  
24 and Ana, both describe insurmountable obstacles to even  
25 accessing the registration process because of language



1 barriers and inability to access technology.

2 The registration process the Defendants are  
3 implementing here is an online-only, English language-only  
4 process. If they don't do it, they're subject to criminal  
5 penalties. If they do do it and they make a mistake,  
6 they're still subject to criminal penalties.

7 Those people also have a cognizable injury, your  
8 Honor.

9 There are in addition members like Ursula, but  
10 also Guvelia and Tiana, who are pursuing statutorily  
11 authorized benefits, applications, who are now required to  
12 go through an additional registration fingerprinting and  
13 carry requirement, a process that Defendants have expressly  
14 said is for the purpose of pursuing mass deportation, a  
15 process also that doesn't have the statutory protections,  
16 for example, that the VAWA statute has in terms of the use  
17 of information.

18 So these people who have -- are eligible for  
19 relief have to go through an additional process that exposes  
20 them to removal and also potential use of their private  
21 information in a way that the VAWA application, for example,  
22 does not.

23 And that's --

24 THE COURT: Ms. Winger, is your point there  
25 VAWA -- if you make statements under VAWA, it cannot be used

1 for deportation proceedings?

2 MS. WINGER: Well, there are stricter privacy  
3 limitations by statute than what's included in this  
4 registration process.

5 THE COURT: I take it there's no privacy  
6 limitations in this one. Is that correct?

7 MS. WINGER: There's a broader grant of use by --  
8 for sort of any federal -- by any federal agency. I'm  
9 sorry. I don't have the exact statute here. But it does  
10 not -- it is not the same in scope as the protections that  
11 are provided under VAWA.

12 THE COURT: Okay. I wanted to go back to your  
13 primary injury for your members, which is just kind of  
14 completing the form. I mean, it looks to me like there's  
15 certainly some prior case law that would be supportive to  
16 you on that. But I also thought *TransUnion* was a bit of a  
17 sea change or certainly a raising of the bar, anyway, for  
18 what would count as standing in cases like this and  
19 suggested that we need to look to the common law if there is  
20 not some sort of monetary or physical harm that, you know,  
21 filling out a form -- isn't filling out a form a bit like  
22 the congressionally created standing at *TransUnion* that the  
23 Supreme Court said is insufficient?

24 MS. WINGER: No, your Honor.

25 Here, our members have to submit a form. Again, a

1 new requirement. They submit a form. They provide  
2 fingerprints, biometrics. They have to travel to a federal  
3 office. And then they also have to carry on their person at  
4 all times proof of registration, all at the risk of federal  
5 prosecution.

6 This is not a *de minimis* harm. This is a real,  
7 tangible harm that is distinct and new and an appreciable  
8 burden on all of these members here.

9 THE COURT: Okay. So it sounds like it's that  
10 combination together that would get you over the *TransUnion*  
11 hump?

12 MS. WINGER: Yes. This is not about just a form,  
13 your Honor. Absolutely.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And am I correct in  
15 understanding under the current system, you only need to  
16 register if you have a legal immigration status? Is that  
17 correct?

18 MS. WINGER: The mechanism that has existed up  
19 until this point is that registration operated through the  
20 immigration processes. The agency delegated certain  
21 immigration forms. That was the way -- that was the only  
22 way to register. And so people that were eligible for those  
23 particular pathways could register and those that weren't  
24 could not and could not be forced to do things that are  
25 impossible.

1           They might be subject to removal and to civil  
2           consequences. We don't dispute that. But they weren't  
3           subject to this criminal registration scheme that's now been  
4           expanded to them.

5           THE COURT: Got it. Okay.

6           Anything else you wanted to say on standing for  
7           the individual members before we chat about the  
8           organizational standing?

9           MS. WINGER: No, your Honor. I think the record  
10          is strong as to our individual members.

11          THE COURT: So on the actual Plaintiffs here,  
12          several of them have testified that they're going to have to  
13          divert their resources and labor to meet the increased  
14          demand from their members.

15          How has this impacted your clients' other  
16          activities?

17          MS. WINGER: Absolutely. And again, because we  
18          feel like we have a strong associational standing here, your  
19          Honor need not address this.

20          But if you choose to, CHIRLA here is our only  
21          Plaintiff that's asserting organizational standing. And as  
22          they articulate in their declaration, this registration  
23          requirement, which in Defendants' own terms impacts two to  
24          three million people, has already resulted in a drastic  
25          increase in -- that has impacted both their hotlines, but

1 also their existing clients.

2           They've already begun the process of reviewing  
3 hundreds of existing clients for when there's an obligation  
4 to register, a process that involves FOIA, work that will --  
5 and in addition, their program providing the legal services  
6 to students is also likely to result in an increase  
7 in inquiries in assistance and advice, all as a result of  
8 this IFR, all compelled by their existing programs, their  
9 existing work, which will make it more difficult for them to  
10 take on new cases, new immigration legal services cases, and  
11 therefore harm their core business function, and also  
12 threaten their grant funding because they can't meet the  
13 grant deliverables, the per-case deliverables that are  
14 required under those grants.

15           Of course, the loss of funding is the classic  
16 injury.

17           THE COURT: So I guess I was a little confused by  
18 that, because I thought this was going to drive more  
19 business to CHIRLA so they'd be getting more cases.

20           MS. WINGER: So right. As they explain, because  
21 registration does not provide an immigration benefit, it's  
22 not the kind of legal services that their grants fund.  
23 Their grants fund particular immigration benefit legal  
24 services.

25           So the funding doesn't cover this new kind of

1 work, even though it's essential to their holistic  
2 representation of their clients. So while it will lead to  
3 more work, including more complicated representation of  
4 their existing clients, it will prevent them from taking on  
5 the new kinds of cases that, you know, for lack of a better  
6 word bring in the money.

7 THE COURT: And why isn't this kind of the  
8 self-harm that the Circuit has advised against in  
9 organizational standing circumstances, that the Circuit has  
10 warned against in other cases? Why can't CHIRLA say, Our  
11 mission is to handle these kind of traditional cases. Yes,  
12 there's this new thing out there, but that's not what we're  
13 getting funding for and that's not what we're focused on?

14 MS. WINGER: Two responses. One is of course that  
15 their mission is not narrowly focused just on providing  
16 particular statutorily authorized forms of relief. Part of  
17 their mission is to represent their existing clients.

18 The registration process is going to impact those  
19 clients on their other applications for relief. As  
20 discussed, your Honor, this application asks people to  
21 provide quite a bit of personal information, information  
22 that may overlap with their other forms of relief, may  
23 impact that form of relief. Serving existing clients is  
24 part of their existing obligations. And as a result, all of  
25 those cases will take more time, which will limit their

1 capacity to take on new cases.

2 Their existing programs, for example, their  
3 hotline, their student legal services programs, are designed  
4 and intended to respond to inquiries that come in through  
5 there and inquiries from the student population. It's part  
6 of the purpose of each of those programs. And choosing to  
7 exclude what is frankly going to have a huge impact on  
8 almost all of the people that CHIRLA contacts would in and  
9 of itself be a harm to these programs. It diminishes their  
10 value, their purpose.

11 THE COURT: Maybe you can help me think through  
12 this. As you know, I mean, organizational standing is a  
13 pretty tricky exercise. And Judge Millett has kind of  
14 warned that this Circuit's standing may well be drifting  
15 from Article III foundations.

16 It looked to me like the Circuit has been pretty  
17 careful about limiting organizational standing to  
18 circumstances where some sort of government rule basically  
19 prevents the organization from completing its mission. Like  
20 in the *PETA* case, I think you no longer are able to get  
21 information from this government agency that the *PETA* had  
22 relied on.

23 It doesn't feel to me like we're in that category  
24 here. It feels to me like this is just, you know,  
25 organizations looking to further their mission and that the

1 government's -- a change in a government program means  
2 there's going to be more or slightly different opportunities  
3 for the organization to further that mission.

4 But I don't see the government preventing your  
5 clients from carrying out their mission in the way that you  
6 saw in *PETA* and the way that it seems to me that the Circuit  
7 has limited organizational standing to at this point.

8 Am I wrong about that? How should I be thinking  
9 through this?

10 MS. WINGER: Your Honor, we would disagree that  
11 the standard is quite -- is as high as your Honor has  
12 articulated it. And we cite -- this Court has not held that  
13 *Alliance for Hippocratic Oath* has overruled Circuit  
14 precedent in this Circuit.

15 And we cite cases such as *Clinic* and *Northwest*  
16 *Immigrant Rights Project*, where courts within this district  
17 have found standing based on again facts very similar to  
18 here.

19 But I would also point out --

20 THE COURT: What's the best one? I mean, what do  
21 you feel like is your case that's closest to what we've got  
22 here?

23 MS. WINGER: I think both *Clinic* and *Northwest*  
24 *Immigrant Rights* both involve harm to core legal services  
25 programs.



1 THE COURT: Okay. Those were the two DDC cases?

2 MS. WINGER: That's right.

3 But I would also say, your Honor, we are talking  
4 about loss of grant funding. And dollar amounts are clearly  
5 standing, clearly sufficient for standing, even separate and  
6 aside from harm to core business functions.

7 The last thing I will just reiterate, we have  
8 associational standing here. If your Honor has concerns  
9 about receiving pseudonymous individual member declarations  
10 after your Honor considers this, we can explore that with  
11 our Plaintiffs.

12 We don't think that's necessary. We think the  
13 detailed declarations here are sufficient reliable evidence  
14 that the Defendants have not disputed to support  
15 associational standing. And if your Honor finds  
16 associational standing, there's no need of course to address  
17 organizational standing.

18 THE COURT: Sure.

19 One of the things I was trying to think through  
20 here, you know, we're on a PI posture. I typically think of  
21 standing as being a relatively low burden. Irreparable harm  
22 is a much higher burden.

23 It felt to me, though, that in the organizational  
24 context, maybe there's actually not much difference, that if  
25 you can show organizational standing under the case law it's

1 kind of -- you've also shown irreparable harm. Is that how  
2 you read the case law?

3 MS. WINGER: That's how I read the case law, too.  
4 Yes, your Honor. Harm to a core business function of an  
5 organizational plaintiff is irreparable harm.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else, Ms. Winger?

7 MS. WINGER: No, your Honor. Not at this time.

8 Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 Mr. Venguswamy?

11 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Yes, your Honor.

12 Good morning, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Good morning, sir.

14 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, Karlik Venguswamy on  
15 behalf of the United States and the federal Defendants.

16 Your Honor, this case, Plaintiffs are trying to  
17 characterize this as a significant change, as a new  
18 requirement, as causing substantive harm.

19 But I think, your Honor, we need to start looking  
20 at the actual statute that underpins everything that's going  
21 on in this case. And there is two specific sections. One  
22 is 8 USC Section 1325, which makes it a federal offense to  
23 enter the country without, you know, appearing at a port of  
24 entry or otherwise complying with the registration  
25 requirements.

1 And so what we have here is a specific subset of  
2 aliens who have not complied with the registration -- the  
3 proper immigration process. They have entered the country  
4 without complying with 8 USC 1325.

5 So already we're looking at not just every alien  
6 in the United States; it's the ones who have not complied  
7 with this rule -- sorry -- the statute and are already here  
8 without that.

9 Second, you've got the set of sections, which is 8  
10 USC Sections 1301 to 1306, which set forth the registration  
11 requirements and the carrying requirements. And there, let  
12 me just start by noting Plaintiff said that Defendants do  
13 not contest or I think do not oppose the idea that there has  
14 never been a universal registration requirement.

15 Your Honor, when the registration requirement was  
16 enacted, there was a universal registration requirement.  
17 The statute was passed from the beginning as a universal  
18 registration requirement. It has slowly been reduced as DHS  
19 and other agencies responsible with enforcing those statutes  
20 have found other ways to work around it. But it's certainly  
21 not the case that there has never been a universal  
22 registration requirement.

23 THE COURT: I'll tell you, my impression here from  
24 the briefing is that at least much of your registration  
25 requirement, this IFR, seems pretty clearly to be envisioned

1 by the statute.

2 But it also seems to me that, as Plaintiffs say,  
3 this is basically -- the government has not been enforcing  
4 the statute for quite some time. And maybe it should have  
5 been, and maybe you're doing the right thing. But this is a  
6 pretty big switcheroo from what's been happening, and that  
7 the case law and the APA would require something more than  
8 what you've done to implement this rule.

9 Why aren't they right about that?

10 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Respectfully, your Honor, they're  
11 not right about that because of the fact that the APA --  
12 that this rule is, in fact, a procedural rule.

13 You're absolutely right, your Honor: The  
14 government has not been enforcing particular sections of the  
15 registration requirement. And as you say, maybe it should  
16 have been.

17 But the case law is clear that the prior lack of  
18 enforcement cannot estop the government from now trying to  
19 enforce it.

20 THE COURT: And I don't think they're saying that  
21 you can't; or at least I'm not. I'm wondering, aren't there  
22 hoops that you have to jump through, notice and comment,  
23 explanation for why this is necessary, what have you, that  
24 that has not happened here?

25 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, I think if this were

1 a different rule that was seeking to expand the burden upon  
2 any individual immigrant or seeking to change the  
3 substantive nature of the aliens' rights or their  
4 responsibilities with respect to the immigration laws, your  
5 Honor, I think that would be a different case.

6 Here, what we have is you have a statute that says  
7 you have to register. You have a statute that says you have  
8 to carry proof of registration. And then you have a CFR  
9 which up until now has listed 11 different ways in which you  
10 can comply with that.

11 There are 11 -- I think 11 or 12 forms in -- I  
12 think it's 8 CFR 241, your Honor, that are set forth as,  
13 Here are the ways in which the department or the agencies  
14 have said you can comply with Sections 1301 to 1306.

15 All the IFR is doing is it's adding one more form  
16 to that. And Plaintiffs are in their reply sort of -- they  
17 dismiss the ability of the agencies to do that. But the  
18 footnote that we set forth -- I think it's Footnote 3 on  
19 Page 17 of our opposition -- you know, there are countless  
20 instances in the past where the agencies have changed forms  
21 or added forms as a purely procedural rule. But the  
22 addition of the form does not itself create any criminal  
23 liability. It does not create any burden.

24 All that's happening here is, here's one more way  
25 with which an alien can comply with Section 1305, 1306 and

1 1325.

2 THE COURT: But I mean, aren't Plaintiffs correct  
3 that until this point most illegal aliens could not comply  
4 with the statute and therefore were not required to comply  
5 with the statute or didn't face criminal liability for it,  
6 and now that they will?

7 MR. VENGUSWAMY: No, your Honor. I think under a  
8 clear reading of the statutory -- the statutes applicable in  
9 this case, every illegal alien should have reported to a  
10 port of entry, asked for an NTA and registered with the port  
11 of entry at that case.

12 Yes, that requires them to go to a port of entry  
13 and register. But that's what Section 1325 already requires  
14 of them. So --

15 THE COURT: So is it your perspective that all of  
16 these members already face criminal liability for failure to  
17 go to a port of entry and get an NTA?

18 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, I believe they all  
19 face -- leaving aside the statute-of-limitations question,  
20 your Honor, which you raised earlier, I think they all face  
21 criminal liability for entering the country without  
22 inspection under --

23 THE COURT: Sure.

24 MR. VENGUSWAMY: -- 1325.

25 THE COURT: But there's an ongoing violation.

1 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Yes. Under 1302, there is an  
2 ongoing continual requirement to carry your -- to be  
3 registered and carry your registration. And I think they  
4 all face that, independent of the existence of the IFR and  
5 the form here, the G-325.

6 THE COURT: Are you aware of any prosecutions for  
7 that?

8 MR. VENGUSWAMY: I'm not, your Honor. But again,  
9 the fact that the government has not in the past enforced  
10 this statute does not estop the government from attempting  
11 to do so now.

12 THE COURT: But I mean, again, that's not what --  
13 we're not talking about you enforcing the -- well, we're not  
14 talking about you enforcing the criminal provision of the  
15 statute here. But I think under your theory, there's no --  
16 there's nothing to stop you from right now bringing criminal  
17 enforcement against any illegal aliens for failure to carry  
18 registration. And yet you're not doing that. Right?

19 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, I believe that there  
20 is no -- under the statute, Section 1302, there is nothing  
21 stopping the government from pursuing statutory claims  
22 against any illegal alien who is not registered, because  
23 that is a separate violation of the code.

24 The fact that the government is not doing so now,  
25 I think, has a combination to do with years of policy, which

1 the government is attempting to address in this IFR, as well  
2 as it's an information issue again, which the government is  
3 attempting to address through this IFR.

4 But at heart, at core, what we're looking at here  
5 is the government is simply attempting to enforce an  
6 already-existing, extant provision of the code, which has  
7 been around since 1940-something, I think.

8 THE COURT: And what's your best case for this  
9 proposition that, you know, because we're enforcing a  
10 statute that we just have failed to enforce -- and now I'm  
11 kind of switching gears back to the IFR, to be clear -- but  
12 because we're just enforcing this notice provision that  
13 Congress always wanted us to enforce, this is just a  
14 procedural rule that need not go through notice and comment?

15 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Yes, your Honor. I think the --  
16 bear with me just one second, your Honor. I apologize.

17 Your Honor, I think the *AFL-CIO* case is  
18 particularly instructive in this instance because that  
19 specifically dealt with rules of agency organization and  
20 procedure as compared to substantive rights. And in that  
21 case, they specifically -- both in that case and in the  
22 *James V. Herson versus Glickman* case, your Honor, as the  
23 Court pointed out, as the D.C. Circuit pointed out,  
24 merely -- you know, the fact that this agency is making a  
25 decision about its procedural efficiency doesn't somehow



1 convert the decision into affecting substantive rights.

2 What we're looking at here is a way in which the agency is  
3 attempting to be procedurally efficient in its attempts to  
4 enforce Section 1302 and Section 1325.

5 So the analogy that comes to mind, your Honor, is  
6 a previous administration might choose to focus its efforts  
7 on certain violent crimes and not on certain substance --  
8 you know, drug crimes. A subsequent administration may  
9 change its mind on that.

10 But they haven't decriminalized anything. The  
11 statute still says the substance is illegal. You just --  
12 different administrations have different things that they're  
13 focusing on.

14 THE COURT: Sure. But I mean, that feels pretty  
15 clearly -- is it *Chenery* grounds? -- on prosecutorial  
16 discretion.

17 But here, we're talking about the APA and the  
18 requirement for notice and comment rulemaking.

19 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Yes. Again, your Honor, if the  
20 IFR created a new form of liability, if failure to  
21 fulfill -- a failure to file this form, G-325, if that were  
22 somehow itself a cause -- a source of liability or an  
23 enforceable claim on an individual, your Honor, I think then  
24 we could -- we would be in -- solidly in the notice and  
25 comment section of the APA.

1 But as we pointed out in our brief, you don't have  
2 to fill out the G-325. There is no requirement on any  
3 individual that they fill out this form.

4 This is just one more way in which an individual  
5 can comply with Section 1302. They can go to a port of  
6 entry. They can fill out one of the other 11 options that  
7 are set forth in the CFR.

8 The failure to fill this form out does not itself  
9 open the door to any additional liability or claim or  
10 anything else. It's just one more tool that an alien has to  
11 follow the statutory requirements.

12 THE COURT: I understand.

13 So what would be the consequences for one of the  
14 Plaintiffs' members if they refused to fill out the question  
15 about "Tell me all the bad things you've ever done"? What  
16 if they kind of invoked Fifth Amendment privileges there?

17 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, that's a good  
18 question.

19 I think there's -- I think if they failed to  
20 answer the question, "Tell me all of the bad things you've  
21 ever done," your Honor, I think there's case law  
22 specifically in the IRS context that indicates that you  
23 could invoke a privilege in that way.

24 But the failure -- the desire to invoke a  
25 privilege does not excuse the failure to comply with other

1 statutory requirements.

2 So in the IRS context, for example, drug dealers  
3 still have to report their income. They can be careful  
4 about how they say it, but they still have to pay taxes on  
5 it, in much of the same way you still have to comply with  
6 the statutory requirement that you register and that you  
7 carry registration around.

8 There may be, your Honor -- and there's -- I think  
9 there's a separate question about the way in which you could  
10 comply with that and still have your Fifth Amendment right  
11 preserved. I think there's -- in *United States versus*  
12 *Sullivan*, which is an older case from 1927, a taxpayer used  
13 the Fifth Amendment to basically say that he did not have to  
14 file his taxes. The Supreme Court roundly rejected that  
15 proposition.

16 On the other hand, in *Garner versus United States*,  
17 a little bit more recently, they found that a voluntary  
18 disclosure of incriminating evidence on a form waived the  
19 privilege.

20 So I think there's some ground there and, you  
21 know, I think it's important to remember that this form is  
22 also -- it's pending under the Paperwork Reduction Act, you  
23 know. The agency is still figuring out exactly how to --  
24 the exact questions to put on this form.

25 But I will say that there are several other

1 instances where the same question was basically asked. As  
2 far as I know, those forms are not -- have not been  
3 contested. For example, the I-485, which is the application  
4 to register permanent residence, has a yes/no checkbox  
5 question: Have you ever entered the United States without  
6 being inspected?

7 Similarly, the I-821, which is for temporary  
8 protected status, asks the same questions with respect to  
9 address and current activities and mode of entry to the  
10 United States. Those are all already-existing forms that  
11 aliens can and do fill out. As far as I know, those have  
12 not been contested or they've not been sort of raised in  
13 this context.

14 THE COURT: And would you agree with me that,  
15 other than -- maybe it sounds like Ursula -- none of  
16 Plaintiffs' members actually face Fifth Amendment liability  
17 at least based on what we have in front of us for illegal  
18 entry from decades ago?

19 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, to the best of my  
20 reading, that appears to be the case.

21 I would -- I want to hedge a little bit because  
22 I'm not in a position to sort of offer Fifth Amendment  
23 immunity to anyone at this point. But based upon my  
24 reading, it certainly appears that everyone other than  
25 Ursula is outside of the sort of 1325 rule. There is a 1302

1 issue, but that's a separate ongoing requirement under  
2 registration. That's what we're trying to address here in  
3 this IFR.

4 THE COURT: And do you happen to know, do  
5 juveniles face 1325 liability?

6 MR. VENGUSWAMY: I don't, your Honor. I can go  
7 back and ask the agency. I don't have that off the top of  
8 my head.

9 THE COURT: So why don't the members have standing  
10 by virtue of being subject to the new regulatory  
11 obligations, which would then give the Plaintiffs  
12 associational standing?

13 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, for associational  
14 standing, the members themselves have to have standing. And  
15 for an individual to have standing, they have to show that  
16 they're facing a harm that is directly attributable to the  
17 agency.

18 In this case, the harm that they're facing is  
19 attributable to 8 USC 1302. That harm to the extent it  
20 exists is a failure to follow the United States Code that  
21 they are already facing. The only thing that this form does  
22 is it gives them one more way in which they can not face  
23 that harm.

24 So there's no new harm associated with this form  
25 or the failure to fill this form out, because they're

1 already facing a harm under Section 1302. So there is no  
2 harm that these individual members are facing as a result of  
3 the IFR, and therefore there is no associational standing  
4 because the individual members are not facing any harm --

5 THE COURT: Your briefing --

6 MR. VENGUSWAMY: -- or new harm, I should say.

7 THE COURT: -- talks about third-party standing.

8 I think it looks to me like Plaintiffs are correct  
9 that that's not the right framework here and that we should  
10 actually be thinking about associational standing, which has  
11 its own intricate test.

12 Do you agree with me on that?

13 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, I think we wanted to  
14 make sure that we were overly cautious in addressing every  
15 possible way in which a Plaintiff might attempt to raise  
16 standing in this instance. I think third-party standing is  
17 one more avenue in which I could see one of the named  
18 Plaintiffs in this case attempting to get around the fact  
19 that they do not have associational standing or  
20 organizational standing. But I think the associational  
21 standing is the more conclusive analysis in this case. I  
22 think that deals, I think, more appropriately and more  
23 conclusively with the issues of this case.

24 THE COURT: And so just to kind of tease out  
25 something that I think you've already said, the government's

1 position is this does not institute a new carry requirement,  
2 that the members must now carry proof of registration, that  
3 they already face that, that they faced that two months ago,  
4 and this just gives them a new thing they could carry if  
5 they wish.

6 Am I correct on that?

7 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Yes, your Honor. The -- they  
8 could have just as easily gone to a port of entry, asked for  
9 a notice to appear, which these already are listed under the  
10 CFR as one of the ways that they could comply with Section  
11 1302. So they're already facing the carry requirement, the  
12 registration requirement. This is just one more document  
13 that is an option for them.

14 THE COURT: Wouldn't you agree with me, though,  
15 that G-325R is asking for some things that are not required  
16 by statute? And, if so, why doesn't that make this a  
17 legislative rule?

18 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, the fact that it's  
19 asking for some additional documents outside of maybe what's  
20 the first few -- your Honor, if you'd bear with me, I've got  
21 my stuff at the table.

22 So, your Honor, as far as what the form asks for,  
23 I think there's two answers there. One is under Section  
24 1304(a), which sets forth what the forms can contain. It  
25 asks for -- this is under the statute -- so 1304(a), the

1 date and place of entry, activity in which he has been and  
2 intends to be engaged. So "What activities are you engaged  
3 in?" is statutorily considered already as an appropriate  
4 question.

5 Then the length of time he expects to remain;  
6 police and criminal record, if any, of such alien; and then  
7 the catch-all, "such additional matters as may be  
8 prescribed." That's under the discretion of the secretary  
9 and the attorney general.

10 So the mere fact that it isn't one of the four  
11 enumerated categories of information under Section 1304(a)  
12 doesn't automatically push this outside of the scope of a  
13 procedural rule.

14 And then second, your Honor --

15 THE COURT: What would make it a procedural rule?

16 MR. VENGUSWAMY: What would make it -- I think it  
17 is a procedure.

18 THE COURT: I'm sorry; more than a procedural  
19 rule?

20 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, I think if it was  
21 attempting maybe to again elicit information that would  
22 create some new burden or elicit some information that was  
23 creating a new form of liability or exposure to liability  
24 that's not already encompassed with Sections 1302 and 1304,  
25 again, your Honor, that might be a different question that



1 we're not facing in this case.

2 This form, it's really just attempting to provide  
3 an illegal alien -- an unregistered alien with one more way  
4 of complying with the statute.

5 And as far as the information, again, your Honor,  
6 there are other DHS forms, the I-821, which asks almost the  
7 exact same questions as already in the G-325.

8 If anything, your Honor, I think the additional  
9 questions here again go to the Paperwork Reduction Act.  
10 These are questions that maybe would be on separate form  
11 that, once you fill out this form, then you get the other  
12 form. It's a Paperwork Reduction Act question, not an APA  
13 question.

14 THE COURT: Your briefing really focuses on  
15 standing. Am I correct in thinking that your arguments on  
16 standing would also go to irreparable harm?

17 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Absolutely, your Honor. If they  
18 don't have standing, then they -- one way in which they  
19 don't have standing in this case is they don't have  
20 irreparable harm. I think there's also -- you know, the  
21 individual members don't have standing and there's a  
22 traceability issue.

23 But certainly I think there is no irreparable harm  
24 in this case because the form and the IFR aren't putting any  
25 harm or burden on them that doesn't -- that they're not

1 already facing through the statutes.

2 THE COURT: And do you read the organizational  
3 standing cases the same way Ms. Winger and I do, that  
4 basically if CHIRLA can show organizational standing,  
5 they've also shown irreparable harm? Or do you see that  
6 irreparable harm as being a second, higher burden that  
7 CHIRLA has to meet?

8 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, I think if they're  
9 able to show the organizational standing with respect to the  
10 effect on CHIRLA, I think that would go a long way towards  
11 the irreparable harm prong of the preliminary injunction. I  
12 think they still face the success on the merits, which is a  
13 different question.

14 But leaving aside the fact that I disagree that  
15 they can show an organizational harm, I do believe, your  
16 Honor, as you say, if they could show organizational harm, I  
17 think that would at least get you most of the way towards  
18 the irreparable harm prong of the PI.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Is there anything else, your  
21 Honor?

22 THE COURT: Nothing from me. Thanks.

23 Ms. Winger, I'll give you the last word.

24 MS. WINGER: Your Honor, I wanted to respond first  
25 to the new idea proposed just today that noncitizens could

1 register by seeking an NTA.

2 A few points about that: First of all, the  
3 government has never set up a process or publicized a  
4 process by which someone can go and demand an NTA. An NTA,  
5 in fact, is a discretionary prosecutorial document. It's a  
6 charging document to initiate removal proceedings. So  
7 there's nothing that requires DHS to issue one.

8 In fact, there are other -- for example, some  
9 might be subject to expedited removal and not even be  
10 entitled to an NTA, or the agency might not think so.

11 But again, there just simply is not a process and  
12 it's certainly never been advertised to people that they can  
13 and should go and seek an NTA. And in fact, the agency  
14 sometimes refuses to issue NTAs. Occasionally people ask  
15 for it in order to be placed in removal proceedings to  
16 pursue discretionary relief that's only been available  
17 there.

18 So it's been viewed as an exercise of  
19 prosecutorial discretion. It's just simply not a realistic  
20 mechanism for universal registration. It's never been used  
21 that way. And the IFR itself acknowledges that explicitly.  
22 It says there's no registration form for these people. So  
23 frankly, I think it is a little disingenuous to propose that  
24 solution today in open court. It's not even discussed in  
25 the rulemaking here.

1 Briefly, the I-598 and the I-485, which have the  
2 questions about uncharged criminal activity, those are  
3 discretionary benefits. You voluntarily apply for them.  
4 There's an element of discretion whether you get to adjust  
5 your status, whether you're eligible for asylum. People can  
6 choose or not choose to apply for this relief. There's no  
7 criminal penalties for not submitting an I-485 or an I-598.

8 Here, we're talking about a form that is required  
9 of everybody with no benefit at all on the threat of federal  
10 prosecution.

11 And the last point I would just say is, your  
12 Honor's been talking about this in the context of a  
13 preliminary injunction. I do just want to elevate that we  
14 also in the alternative seek a stay. And consistent with  
15 longstanding court practice, a universal stay of an IFR here  
16 would be appropriate.

17 THE COURT: And on that point, I mean, it sounds  
18 like something we all agree on is that basically the  
19 irreparable harm is not going to do -- doesn't do a lot of  
20 work here, at least as to organizational standing.

21 And so whether I see this as a stay or an  
22 injunction, I basically am doing the same analysis. Right?

23 MS. WINGER: Same analysis, yes. Absolutely. I  
24 mean, again, we do think we have shown irreparable harm for  
25 a host of ways for our members. But as to our organization,

1 the fact that they have standing is really enough on its own  
2 to be irreparable harm, too.

3 THE COURT: And those other -- you mentioned a  
4 couple other forms. I-458?

5 MS. WINGER: Sorry. The I-485 is an application  
6 to adjust to lawful permanent resident status. It's a  
7 discretionary benefit. You apply basically to get a green  
8 card. It's a green card application. An I-598 is an asylum  
9 application.

10 THE COURT: And you said those forms do not  
11 require you to disclose your criminal history?

12 MS. WINGER: They do.

13 So -- I'm sorry. I don't want to mispronounce  
14 your name, but the United States represented that there are  
15 forms that request information about uncharged criminal  
16 conduct like the form at issue here. I'm just trying to  
17 distinguish between certainly in the Fifth Amendment context  
18 there's -- they're different beasts because you don't have  
19 to apply for asylum. You don't have to apply to adjust your  
20 status. You have to register. And so the -- so it's  
21 compelling statements, unlike -- in a way that the 485 and  
22 the I-598 are not.

23 THE COURT: I see.

24 You said a couple minutes ago that the rulemaking  
25 actually says that your members can't currently seek -- have

1 registration. Is that right?

2 MS. WINGER: That's right.

3 So it's at 11795 of the IFR. And it says: Aliens  
4 who entered without inspection and have not otherwise been  
5 encountered by DHS lack a designated registration form.

6 THE COURT: Okay. And your position is there's  
7 really no realistic option -- well, a month ago, there was  
8 no realistic option for those individuals to get a  
9 registration?

10 MS. WINGER: Absolutely, your Honor. And I think  
11 of course the question here is, could they be prosecuted for  
12 willful failure to register? Right?

13 There was no -- there simply was -- nobody here  
14 until a month ago would have thought that they had any way  
15 to register and certainly couldn't be guilty of willful  
16 failure to do so as a result.

17 Also, the agency itself has acknowledged that the  
18 carry requirement only attaches to people who have  
19 registered. In other words, you can't be prosecuted for  
20 failure to carry proof of registration if you have not  
21 registered. And so necessarily, by expanding who can  
22 register, you're adding this new both requirement and  
23 criminal penalty for failure to carry. And the IFR  
24 recognizes that, too.

25 THE COURT: Okay. And you were just talking about

1 a form to seek an application for a green card. I take it  
2 that obviously, if you're successful in getting a green  
3 card, you've got your document; you're in compliance with  
4 the statute; but you don't get some other -- that wouldn't  
5 provide something else short of a green card that would  
6 nonetheless meet the terms of the statute?

7 MS. WINGER: So the I-485 in the regulation is  
8 listed as a registration form. So people who have,  
9 according to -- who have -- who are eligible for applying  
10 for a green card under the regulations have registered.

11 What they carry as proof is a lot less clear,  
12 because the I-458 is a multipage form. That's one of the  
13 issues that Defendants don't really explain in their IFR.

14 But people who enter without inspection by and  
15 large are ineligible to adjust their status to lawful  
16 permanent resident, at least while they're still in the  
17 United States, unless they -- yeah. There's some  
18 exceptions. But not everybody can do that.

19 THE COURT: And what would prevent them from  
20 applying, getting rejected, but nonetheless meeting the  
21 terms of this carry statute?

22 MS. WINGER: Well, I guess they are -- they have  
23 to sign this sworn declaration that establishes their  
24 eligibility in order to submit it. Again, there's never  
25 been any announcement that people should apply for relief

1 that they're ineligible for in order to be considered  
2 registered. It's simply not the system the government has  
3 set up.

4 Frankly, I think it risks forcing people to  
5 misrepresent. I mean --

6 THE COURT: So your point is there are things in  
7 the application -- to apply, you've got to say --

8 MS. WINGER: You have to check off the box.  
9 You've got to indicate who's the qualifying relative. I  
10 mean, the whole point of it is to establish eligibility for  
11 something for which people are not eligible for.

12 THE COURT: Got it. Got it. That makes sense.  
13 All right. Thank you. Anything else, ma'am?

14 MS. WINGER: No, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: So --

16 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, can I just -- one  
17 point?

18 THE COURT: Yes.

19 MR. VENGUSWAMY: I apologize, your Honor.  
20 Plaintiff correctly pointed out I think I misspoke and  
21 overstated it when I suggested that illegal aliens should or  
22 can report to a port of entry to get an NTA. I was merely  
23 trying to highlight the number of options under the  
24 regulations already existing. I certainly didn't mean to  
25 say that that is a thing that has been advertised or should



1 be done or, as you pointed out, it is discretionary. So I  
2 apologize, your Honor, if I overstated that.

3 THE COURT: I appreciate that.

4 So what is the option, then, for somebody right  
5 now, understanding the IFR is not out?

6 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, as Plaintiff  
7 correctly says -- and it's in the IFR -- there is not  
8 currently a universal form that would apply across the board  
9 for every illegal alien to comply with the registration and  
10 carry requirements at this -- at this point, pending the  
11 IFR.

12 THE COURT: But is there any option for these  
13 members?

14 MR. VENGUSWAMY: Your Honor, I think it's a  
15 case-by-case basis. Again, there were 11 different forms.  
16 Some of them may be eligible for one and not others. Some  
17 of them may not be eligible for any of the 11. The IFR  
18 seeks to basically patch that hole in the existing set of  
19 forms.

20 But I just wanted to apologize and acknowledge  
21 that I did misspeak there.

22 THE COURT: I appreciate the correction. And this  
23 is why we have rebuttals. Right?

24 All right. Thanks, folks. I appreciate your  
25 rapid briefing and helpful arguments here. I'll certainly

1 try to get an opinion out to you in the next couple days.

2 Thanks, folks. I'll take it under advisement.

3 (Proceedings concluded at 11:05 a.m.)

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**CERTIFICATE**

I, LISA EDWARDS, RDR, CRR, do hereby  
certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and accurate  
transcript of my stenographic notes, and is a full, true,  
and complete transcript of the proceedings produced to the  
best of my ability.

Dated this 15th day of April, 2025.

/s/ Lisa Edwards, RDR, CRR  
Official Court Reporter  
United States District Court for the  
District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 354-3269

**EXHIBIT C, DIST. CT ECF NO. 44**

**ORDER SETTING BRIEFING SCHEDULE  
ON MOTION FOR INJUNCTION PENDING  
APPEAL**

**EXHIBIT C, DIST. CT ECF NO. 44**

**ORDER SETTING BRIEFING SCHEDULE  
ON MOTION FOR INJUNCTION PENDING  
APPEAL**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE  
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:25-cv-00943 (TNM)

**ORDER**

The Court denied Plaintiffs' [4] Motion for Preliminary Injunction on April 10. *Coal. for Humane Immigrant Rts. v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, No. 1:25-cv-00943 (TNM), 2025 WL 1078776, at \*1 (D.D.C. Apr. 10, 2025). Plaintiffs noticed their appeal two weeks later. Notice of Appeal, ECF No. 41. Notably, they did not seek an emergency stay from the Court of Appeals. Now, Plaintiffs move for an Injunction Pending Appeal. Mot. Inj. Pending Appeal, ECF No. 42.

The Court will not take off in another sprint now that Plaintiffs allege the previous Order was wrong, or alternatively, that they have fixed their mistakes. The Court already accommodated a tight deadline on the Plaintiffs' prior motion. *See* Mot. Prelim. Inj. at 2–3 (noting motion was filed on March 31 and requesting relief by April 11). Considering this history and the glut of emergency motions in this courthouse, the Court establishes the following briefing schedule for the Plaintiffs' Motion for an Injunction Pending Appeal. It is hereby

**ORDERED** that Defendants file a response to Plaintiffs' motion by May 19, 2025; and it is further


**ORDERED** that Plaintiffs file any Reply in support by May 27, 2025; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the parties appear for a motions hearing on June 6, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

in Courtroom 2 before Judge Trevor N. McFadden.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated: April 29, 2025

 2025.04.29  
09:22:32 -04'00'  
TREVOR N. McFADDEN, U.S.D.J.

## **EXHIBIT D, DIST. CT ECF NO. 4-2**

### **DECLARATION OF ANGELICA SALAS**



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, et al.,

*Plaintiffs*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, et al.,

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-cv-00943

**DECLARATION OF ANGELICA SALAS IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'  
MOTION FOR A STAY OF EFFECTIVE DATES UNDER 5 U.S.C. § 705  
OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No.

**DECLARATION OF ANGELICA SALAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF THE COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (“CHIRLA”)**

I, Angelica Salas, upon my personal knowledge, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the Executive Director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (“CHIRLA”). I have held this position since 1999. In this capacity, I oversee all of CHIRLA’s program areas and am responsible for strategic planning and CHIRLA’s annual budget.
2. CHIRLA is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Los Angeles, California, with ten offices throughout California and a national policy office in Washington, D.C. CHIRLA was founded in 1986 and its mission is to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees and ensure immigrant communities are fully integrated into our society with full rights and access to resources.

**CHIRLA’S MISSION**

3. CHIRLA's mission is to ensure that immigrant communities are fully integrated into our society with full rights and access to resources. CHIRLA’s first director was Father Luis Olivares, the pastor at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church. As a leading voice of the Sanctuary

movement, Olivares used his church to protect refugees fleeing human rights abuses in Central America in the 1980s. Since its founding in 1986, CHIRLA has continued to advocate for immigrant rights, organizing, educating, serving, and defending immigrants and refugees in Los Angeles and throughout California.

4. Today, CHIRLA is the largest statewide immigrant rights organization in California, with fourteen unique departments and over 185 staff members who help provide a range of services that reach tens of thousands of Californians each year. For example, over the last three years, CHIRLA's education programs have reached over 820,000 people through more than 7,800 events and its legal department has assisted approximately 30,000 people. In furtherance of its mission, CHIRLA handles the full spectrum of needs of those primarily residing within low-income immigrant communities in an area with very high costs of living and in areas of California that have long been under-served.

5. CHIRLA is a membership-based organization, funded, in part, by its approximately 13,000 dues-paying and active members. The fee for an individual membership is a minimum of \$25, although families may become members for \$60. The majority of our members are low-income immigrants in mixed status families, one or more of whom are undocumented. Some are members first, who due to circumstances then become legal service clients, while others are clients before they become members.

6. CHIRLA has approximately 50,000 active members across California. Our membership is diverse, and includes U.S. citizens, non-U.S. citizens with lawful status, and non-U.S. citizens without lawful status. Many of our members belong to mixed-status families—that is, families consisting of both individuals with citizenship or lawful status and individuals without. Most of our members are low-income. CHIRLA educates its membership as well as our broader

community through know-your-rights trainings, workshops, social media and educational literature about a variety of social services and benefits, including immigration law, financial literacy, workers' rights, and civic engagement.

7. In 2012, CHIRLA launched its legal services program to support its members and others in the community in seeking the benefits and protections of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA"). Since then, we have expanded our legal services program, first by representing clients in applying for permanent residence and citizenship as well as other applications before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS"), including family-based petitions, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status petitions, Military Parole in Place, and U visas, and then expanding in 2017 to representing individuals in removal proceedings in immigration court. We now have three main components within the Department of Legal Services: 1) Programs and Subcontract Administration; 2) Worker Rights and Labor; and 3) Legal Programs, with over sixty staff members across the components. Subcontract Administration oversees funding from the California Department of Social Services, the County of Los Angeles, and the City of Los Angeles, and in this way helps ensure wider access across the State of California to legal services. Among the subcontractors are other nonprofit organizations as well as California State Universities Chico, Humboldt, Sacramento, and Sonoma. Within Legal Programs, we have distinct Removal Defense, Clinical, and Family Unity units, as well as our Student Legal Services Program. During the past three years, CHIRLA has conducted nearly 30,000 legal consultations and has assisted with hundreds of immigration matters, including I-130 family petitions and attendant adjustments of status, Military Parole in Place cases, consular processes, as well as humanitarian-based applications including asylum, U visas, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions.

8. CHIRLA's programs also include a hotline where individuals—including members, clients, and community members can call with questions. The assistance hotline that CHIRLA operates fields on average 15,000 calls per year. Given CHIRLA's deep community ties and longstanding legal services programs, CHIRLA is often a first point of contact for individuals seeking information about recent policy changes impacting immigrants. The hotline is staffed by members of CHIRLA's Community Education team who can refer callers to Legal Programs staff as needed as well as to regular triage services where intakes are conducted.

9. Student Legal Services Program (SLS) is part of Legal Programs and provides limited legal assistance to college students across 14 community colleges and four California State University (CSU) campuses. Additionally, at the CSU campuses, the assistance can also extend to family members. These services include immigration consultations, affirmative immigration applications like DACA renewals, naturalization and family-based petitions, as well as know-your-rights sessions. This program dovetails with CHIRLA's longstanding advocacy on behalf of DACA recipients and immigrant youth more broadly and is funded through a state grant specifically for providing immigration legal services to college students.

10. In addition to member dues, CHIRLA also receives funding through private foundations and state and local grants. Many of these other sources of funding come with expectations or requirements that CHIRLA achieve certain metrics in its immigration services work. For example, CHIRLA receives grants that are predicated on the organization meeting specified deliverables, which can include representing a set number of individuals or achieving certain outcomes. For at least one of CHIRLA's contracts to provide removal defense representation, the organization receives funding on a "per case" basis - i.e., a set amount of funding for each new client whose case CHIRLA contracts to accept for representation. Payments under this contract

are made in stages, with a percentage of the funding paid to the organization at the beginning of the funding cycle, mid-cycle, and when the contractual obligations have been fulfilled.

11. Funding from private grants and contracts with public agencies are critical to CHIRLA's ability to provide essential services in furtherance of its mission and to deliver to the full scope of benefits CHIRLA affords its members. If one significant stream of funding is compromised, the effects ripple across the organization. If CHIRLA were to be unable to meet its deliverables, the organization's grantors would either not reimburse CHIRLA for its expenses, require that CHIRLA continue the work needed to complete its commitments but without additional funding for staffing or to cover the increased costs, and in some instances would decrease or decline to renew funding in the future. With our contract to provide removal defense representation, if CHIRLA were to be unable to take on the number of new cases promised, our organization would not receive the balance of the funds under the contract and would have to return the funds provided to that point for those cases. Thus, an inability to meet case acceptance and completion goals leads to diminished funding for the organization. In the process, CHIRLA's reputation in the grantor community would also be harmed, jeopardizing future funding.

12. In addition to its education initiatives and legal services, CHIRLA engages in policy advocacy efforts on behalf of its members at the local, state, and national levels. For example, a recent CHIRLA campaign focused on advocacy for stronger health and safety protections for domestic workers. This campaign began in response to COVID-19, where domestic workers were at the forefront of the pandemic. Since then, CHIRLA has been supporting state legislation that would remove an exemption that denies domestic workers the same health and safety protections as other workers.

13. CHIRLA reaches its members and community members through in-person meetings and

events throughout California and through its virtual platforms, including a Facebook Live series “CHIRLA en tu Casa,” CHIRLA TV YouTube channel, and TikTok. Organizers, along with legal and communications staff, work collaboratively to prepare materials and content for these events that are geared towards members and non-members alike.

14. CHIRLA regularly submits comments on agency rules and regulations that impact its members and the communities it serves. CHIRLA plans to submit a comment on the Interim Final Rule (“IFR”) explaining how it will be burden our organization and members. However, given the mere 30-day comment period and the fact that the agency is not considering public comments before finalizing the rule, the comment will not be as robust as when we submit them through the regular rulemaking process.

#### **HARM TO CHIRLA AS AN ORGANIZATION**

15. The new registration requirement created by the IFR will impact CHIRLA across the organization: its programming, staffing, communications, and funding. The community members CHIRLA serves have already begun reaching out to its hotline and at community events with questions about the registration requirement, leading staff to reallocate their time to addressing concerns and revising materials and presentations to address these growing concerns.

16. If the regulation goes into effect, CHIRLA will be overwhelmed by individuals in need of legal advice and assistance with the new registration process. CHIRLA has thousands of current and former clients in its Legal Programs, many of whom will need to register even if they have some kind of pending application for immigration relief, for example family-based petitioners where the applicants are awaiting priority dates and have not yet undergone biometrics. Further, even those who do not need to register will likely seek legal advice to determine if they need to register. Indeed, of the numerous calls CHIRLA has already received

about registration, many community members have asked whether DACA recipients or TPS holders have to register.

17. Since CHIRLA serves its members, legal services clients, and community members alike, it expects thousands of individuals are likely to reach out for assistance and advice with the new registration process. Addressing this volume of community needs will impact multiple programs and will strain its staff and budget. Specifically, the hotline staff will not be able to keep up with the volume of callers regarding registration once greater awareness is reached in the community. Just last week, CHIRLA sent an e-blast to its members outlining registration and previewing a call to action on how to file a public comment on it.

18. Further, Legal Services attorneys and staff will not be able to provide legal advice or assistance to all of those in need while managing their current caseloads. CHIRLA has already identified over a hundred current clients who may have to register, including around 60 particularly vulnerable U-visa applicants who have not had their biometrics taken. Reviewing client files to determine who will need to have a separate consultation about registration is also diverting significant staff resources that will only increase if the rule goes into effect. This case review will be particularly challenging and time-consuming given that the IFR is silent with respect to many of the immigration benefits our clients have applied for and due to absence of any instructions for the G-325R on the USCIS website. Another complexity in determining whether clients would need to register under the IFR is ascertaining their manner of entry and whether they were served with a Notice to Appear or paroled. For some clients, CHIRLA legal staff will need to file Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) requests to make those determinations.

19. The need for legal advice and assistance with the registration will further impact CHIRLA’s core legal work and compliance with existing grants and deliverables. As noted



above, CHIRLA's Legal Programs grants are allocated for provision of legal services leading to affirmative immigration benefits (for example, DACA renewals, U visas, or naturalization) or to defend individuals in removal proceedings from deportation. The registration requirement does not meet the criteria for these grants as it does not confer a benefit but instead is a requirement to avoid civil and criminal penalties. CHIRLA is required by its mission and its ethical obligations to its clients to assist members, clients and community members with the registration process. However, this would require CHIRLA to divert its staff to assist them at the expense of grant compliance, particularly those involving "per case" deliverables. Noncompliance with grant requirements will likely result not only in withholding of disbursements during the next funding cycle, but also in CHIRLA's eligibility to apply for future grants.

20. Another example of how CHIRLA's current resources would need to be diverted would be responding to the needs of immigrant youth. The grant funding it receives under the Student Legal Services Program to assist students on college campuses is undertaken as "limited legal services" that do not create a long-term attorney-client relationship. Nonetheless, because California college students are familiar with CHIRLA—and because of its longtime advocacy for immigrant youth through its DACA work and other campaigns—they will look to CHIRLA for advice and assistance with the new registration requirement. CHIRLA has already received increased inquiries about the registration requirement from students who are concerned that they or their family members would be subject to it. However, responding to these inquiries, and/or advising and assisting students about it, would not fall within the scope of legal services covered by the grant. Given CHIRLA's commitment to immigrant youth and its existing relationships with students that is core to its mission, CHILRA will be compelled to respond to these inquiries.

21. Even though many of CHIRLA's hundreds of existing clients across its Legal Programs

may be considered to have already “registered” because of the past services they receive, they will want to seek clarity about the new process and will likely have concerns about whether family members will be required to register. Given that the new registration rule is unclear as to whether individuals with certain types of immigration statuses, benefits, and visa categories are considered registered—and the absence of instructions—Legal Programs staff will need to expend significant time counseling current clients.

### **HARM TO CHIRLA’S MEMBERS**

22. Many of CHIRLA’s members will experience harm as a direct result of the IFR. As its members have a variety of immigration statuses and/or belong to mixed-status families, the IFR will create uncertainty of which members are considered “registered.” Even those who are registered may have children or family members who would be required to do so.

23. The following members would be newly required to register under the IFR.<sup>1</sup>

24. “Ursela” is an 18-year-old CHIRLA member who lives in California. She entered the U.S. without inspection in 2023 as an unaccompanied minor when she was 17. She fled El Salvador with her mother after suffering years of severe physical abuse by her father, but they were separated on their journey. After making inquiries with the Salvadoran Consulate, she learned that her mother is officially listed as a missing person in Mexico. Ursela, who is not in removal proceedings, has filed for asylum but has not yet had biometrics taken; she is also applying for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status based on her parental circumstances. Despite pursuing these lawful pathways to permanent status, Ursela would be required to register pursuant to the IFR. She knows that the government wants to use the registration process to deport people, and that the government has already deported people even though they have pending asylum applications. She fears she could be targeted for

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<sup>1</sup> All member names in this declaration are pseudonyms.

enforcement before her applications are approved and be deported to El Salvador, where she faces persecution.

25. CHIRLA Member "Tiana" is a forty-two-year-old woman who came to the U.S. at the age of 15 with her family. In the U.S., she initially worked as a seamstress to help the family out and was unable to complete her education. Tiana married a U.S. citizen who abused her and never helped her adjust her status. She is currently in the process of self-petitioning for protection under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) but has not yet filed Form I-360 or undergone biometrics. Even when she files, the Form I-360 used for VAWA petitions is not included in the IFR as evidence of registration, so Tiana would still be required to register.

26. Tiana is a single parent of a U.S. citizen son who is in second grade. To help support him, she eventually earned her G.E.D. She worked in a restaurant that burned down during the recent Los Angeles wildfires, but with the help of one of her former colleagues she has taken the first step to fulfilling a long-held dream of opening her own restaurant. She wants to serve a fusion of Oaxacan and American cuisine. She is terrified that registering could make her a target for immigration enforcement given the government's public statements that registration is intended for that purpose. This would prevent her from pursuing her VAWA petition and, worse, could separate her from her son.

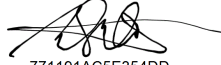
27. CHIRLA Member "Luisa" is a 48-year-old domestic worker who has been in the U.S. for nearly 20 years, when she entered without inspection. She is the spouse of a CHIRLA client who has temporary protections, but she is not eligible for this form of protection herself and would have to register. Together they have 2 U.S. citizen children, 11 and 15 years old. Luisa is a very active CHIRLA member and a part of the Domestic Workers organizing group. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was an essential worker who volunteered to clean classrooms in her own children's

school, focusing on those for the youngest age groups. She advocates for better work conditions for her profession in Los Angeles, Sacramento and on the national level via the Domestic Workers Alliance. In particular, Luisa has worked to assist indigenous domestic workers, receiving training on how to preserve indigenous languages and act as an interpreter. Additionally, Luisa champions better housing and helping to get out the vote. On numerous occasions, she has participated in pro-immigrant protests and she also attended the Women's March. She is fearful of the registration process and that she will be specifically targeted for enforcement because of her advocacy on behalf of undocumented workers.

28. For CHIRLA's members, as well as their families and communities, the IFR's registration requirement is causing fear and confusion. If it goes into effect, it will give CHIRLA's members and families an impossible choice of facing criminal charges or facing potential deportations regardless of their family and community ties--and significant contributions--to the United States.

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

Executed on March 29, 2025 in Los Angeles, California.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Angelica Salas

## **EXHIBIT E, DIST. CT ECF NO. 4-3**

### **DECLARATION OF ELIZABETH STRATER**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, et al.,

*Plaintiffs*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, et al.,

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-cv-00943

**DECLARATION OF ELIZABETH STRATER IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'  
MOTION FOR A STAY OF EFFECTIVE DATES UNDER 5 U.S.C. § 705  
OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No.

**DECLARATION OF ELIZABETH STRATER,  
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC CAMPAIGNS,  
UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA (“UFW”)**

I, Elizabeth Strater, declare:

1. I serve as Director of Strategic Campaigns and National Vice President of the United Farm Workers of America (“UFW”). I have worked for UFW since 2017 and have been National Vice President since I was elected by a Convention of farm worker union members in September 2024. As a member of the elected Union Executive Board, I help direct the union’s work in organizing, negotiating, public campaigns, rulemaking, legislative campaigns, and wide-reaching advocacy on behalf of farm workers.
2. As Director of Strategic Campaigns, I direct campaigns on behalf of farm workers to empower them to improve their safety, wages, and working conditions and to underscore their basic human dignity. An important part of my role is to humanize the essential contributions of farm workers and to protect the rights of UFW’s membership, the majority of whom are

immigrants. I have detailed knowledge about UFW's membership demographics, membership criteria, member needs and priorities, and how members direct UFW's mission and advocacy.

3. As part of my role as Director of Strategic Campaigns and National Vice President, I regularly hear from UFW members about their safety, wages, working conditions, immigration issues, and other concerns members face in their communities. I also hear these concerns communicated through UFW organizers who speak directly with members and report to the Board. In recent weeks, I have heard from numerous organizers and union members who are concerned about the new registration process set forth in an Interim Final Rule ("IFR") and who have questions about how registration will impact themselves and other members.

#### **UFW's Mission & Membership**

4. UFW is the first and largest farm worker union in the country. It represents thousands of migrant and seasonal farm workers in various agricultural occupations throughout the United States. UFW is headquartered in Kern County in Keene, California.

5. Founded in 1962 by Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong and other leaders, UFW was created from the merger of workers' rights organizations to form one union. Our mission is to improve the lives, wages, and working conditions of agricultural workers and their families. UFW has members throughout California, and in Oregon, Washington, and New York.

6. To fulfill our mission, UFW engages in collective bargaining, worker education, advocacy, state and federal legislation, and public campaigns. Our stated values are integrity, "Sí se puede" attitude, dignity, and innovation. We promote total nonviolence as a core tenet. As a result of UFW's work, thousands of agricultural workers are protected under UFW contracts. UFW has also sponsored and advocated for legal reforms to protect all farm workers at the state and federal level, including on issues related to overtime pay, heat safety, pesticides safety, COVID-19 protections, and other policies to protect farmworkers and advance their rights.



7. As part of this work, UFW is a national leader in the movement for immigration reform and immigrants' rights. We have spearheaded national campaigns and congressional lobbying efforts to raise public awareness of the critical role migrant farm workers play in our communities and economy and to advocate for immigration reform, including a path to citizenship for farm workers.

8. As of March 2025, UFW has approximately 7,000 members.

9. UFW membership is voluntary and consists of various categories of members. Among these, contributing or associate members are individuals who make a monthly or annual contribution of a designated amount to UFW. Dues-paying members are those who benefit from a UFW collective bargaining agreement. In addition to these categories, UFW recognizes other forms of membership, including full-time employees who have been employed for at least two years, individuals recognized as martyred members due to their sacrifice in the struggle for social justice, honorary members who are family members of martyred members, and retired members who contribute voluntarily after leaving active employment.

10. Generally, individuals seeking to become contributing or associate members of UFW complete an official application, which is reviewed and processed by UFW staff for approval. Dues-paying members become members through the procedures set forth in the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act or other applicable laws, their collective bargaining agreements, and union rules.

11. UFW members play an important role in deciding what activities UFW engages in as an organization. At UFW's quadrennial Constitutional Convention, members introduce and vote on motions to govern and guide the union's work, and to elect the Union Executive Board. On an ongoing basis, UFW members respond to surveys, provide feedback, and participate in advisory meetings (known as "consejo de base" in Spanish) to actively participate in the Union's decisions.

UFW has created various programs in response to members' feedback and requests. For example, in 2008, in response to requests from our members, we created educational scholarships for students who are working toward an undergraduate degree and are either eligible UFW members or their dependents in California, Oregon, and Washington state.

12. UFW membership comes with a variety of benefits. Dues-paying members receive protections in the form of collective bargaining in which UFW engages on their behalf. Through an established negotiating committee comprised of workers, UFW members negotiate benefits such as medical insurance, pension, wages, paid time off, working conditions, seniority, right to recall, equipment provisions and other terms of employment.

13. Members reach out to UFW seeking assistance, advocacy, advice, and information, and to raise concerns that their communities are facing. My team is in constant contact with UFW's membership. Members guide the organization at Conventions and quarterly consejo de base (advisory) meetings and will reach out to union staff, including me and my direct reports, on a daily basis.

14. UFW members in Kern County were recently impacted, directly and indirectly, by Border Patrol's January 2025 enforcement operation, "Operation Return to Sender," in which hundreds of Latinos were arrested and detained, many of whom had a lawful status. In response to the harm it inflicted on UFW members, we mobilized quickly to support our members. We connected members with immigration attorneys and helped them identify where their loved ones were being detained. We aided farm workers by helping to arrange travel between their homes and Border Patrol's detention centers, often hundreds of miles away. When breadwinners were detained or summarily expelled from the country, we assisted affected families in locating emergency food, diapers, and infant formula supplies needed for survival.

15. Despite UFW’s efforts to support members and their families, the harms from “Operation Return to Sender”—and Border Patrol’s statements that they will replicate their operations elsewhere in California—has stoked fear among farmworker communities, including among documented farmworkers. UFW members have reported that they are terrified that Border Patrol will—again—arrest people without regard to how long someone has been living in the community or the family members they have waiting for them, including young children.

16. This climate of fear has raised significant concerns among UFW members about the registration process set forth in the new IFR. These concerns are coming from members with a variety of immigration statuses, including those who are already considered “registered,” but are worried about the online process and how it will affect them and their families.

17. The UFW frequently submits comments on rules and regulations that directly impact farm workers. UFW only submits comments when it has had the opportunity to solicit input from its members. Given the 30-day deadline for commenting on the IFR and the fact that the agency has already finalized the language of the regulation without public input, UFW will not have the capacity to write a comment in this timeframe, despite the registration’s negative impact on its members. If the time period were extended, UFW would have more time to speak to its members and to submit a comment that incorporates their perspectives.

#### **UFW Members Who Will be Harmed by the Registration Requirement**

18. Each of the following members would be newly required to register and be fingerprinted under the IFR.<sup>1</sup>

19. UFW Member “Ana” is a 50-year-old indigenous farmworker from Oaxaca. She has dedicated 24 years to the strawberry and blueberry harvests in Oxnard, California. She is a single

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<sup>1</sup> All member names in this declaration are pseudonyms.

mother of six children, four US-born citizens aged 16, 18, 20, and 22, and two undocumented children aged 32 and 30. Ana lost her husband to murder in 2010 and was left to provide for several children alone. She has been a UFW supporter since 2014, participating in general meetings, marches, and holiday activities. Ana speaks a thousand-year-old indigenous language, Mixteco Bajo, and has very little understanding of Spanish or English.

20. Having to focus on work to provide for her family left Ana very little time to learn how to read, write, or speak Spanish. She worries about the registration requirement because she is extremely unfamiliar with technology and has always needed assistance with online forms. Ana believes that it would be extremely challenging for her to access, navigate, and understand the registration process given her limited understanding of Spanish and the Internet. She is concerned that she would make a mistake in the process that could be misconstrued as fraud and used against her. She worries about both immigration and criminal consequences of registering given that she is the sole provider of four children.

21. UFW Member “David” is a 69-year-old farmworker who has resided in Sunnyside, Washington since 2007, after entering without inspection at the Southern border. David has worked for 18 years in various agricultural jobs including apple, cherry, pear, and peach harvests. He has six children, four of whom remain in Mexico and two in the US. One of his children does not have any legal status and one has a temporary status. David has a sixth-grade level education and is unfamiliar with technology and navigating the Internet; he worries about how he will be able to comply with the new registration requirement given the process is only online.

22. UFW Member “Gloria” is a 49-year-old indigenous farmworker from Oaxaca who has dedicated the last six years to harvesting strawberries in Oxnard, California. Her native language is Mixteco Bajo and she speaks limited Spanish and no English. She and her partner have six

children. Gloria and two of her children have received for labor-based deferred action (“DALE”). However, she has four undocumented children ages 16, 18, 21, and 23 who do not qualify for DALE. Although Gloria has a temporary protection and is already considered “registered,” her undocumented children, including her minor 16-year-old child, would be subject to the IFR. She feels extremely vulnerable in her community due to her inability to speak fluent Spanish and navigate technology. She only owns a flip phone that does not have internet access. She feels anxious for the safety of her undocumented teenage son because she will be responsible for registering him, and she would be unable to assist him with the process. She worries her minor child could make a mistake on the registration form—or might lose or forget to carry proof of registration—which could expose him to criminal consequences.

23. These stories illustrate the harm that the registration requirement would cause UFW members. UFW remains committed to advocating for laws and policies that support farm workers and reflect their enormous contributions to their communities and the economy.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on March 28, 2025.

Los Angeles, California



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Elizabeth Strater

## **EXHIBIT F, DIST. CT ECF NO. 4-4**

### **DECLARATION OF GEORGE ESCOBAR**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, et al.,

*Plaintiffs*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, et al.,

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-cv-00943

**DECLARATION OF GEORGE ESCOBAR IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'  
MOTION FOR A STAY OF EFFECTIVE DATES UNDER 5 U.S.C. § 705  
OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No.

**DECLARATION OF GEORGE ESCOBAR,  
CHIEF OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, CASA, INC.**

I, George Escobar, hereby submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and declare as follows:

1. I am the Chief of Programs and Services of CASA, Inc. (“CASA”). I have worked at CASA for fourteen years. In my role, I oversee CASA’s portfolio of community-facing direct services, including its health, legal, and educational services; employment and workforce development programs; financial literacy and tax programs; and parent engagement programs. An important part of my role is to understand the needs and experiences of our members so that I can work with my staff to design appropriate interventions to address those needs. I therefore speak frequently with community members and receive feedback from my staff regarding CASA members’ fears, concerns, and decisions.

2. I make this statement based upon personal knowledge, files and documents of CASA that I have reviewed (such as case files, reports, and collected case metrics), as well as information supplied to me by employees of CASA whom I believe to be reliable. These files,



documents, and information are of a type that is generated in the ordinary course of our business and that I would customarily rely upon in conducting CASA business.

3. CASA is a national nonprofit membership organization headquartered in Langley Park, Maryland, with offices in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Georgia.

4. Founded in 1985, CASA has more than 173,000 lifetime members from across the United States. CASA's members are predominantly noncitizens in a variety of immigration statuses.

### **CASA's Mission and Activities**

5. A CASA member is a person who shares CASA's values, envisions a future where we can achieve full human rights for all, and is convinced that, when united and organized, we can create a more just society by building power in our working-class and immigrant communities. CASA members play an important role in deciding what campaigns we work on and how CASA serves the community.

6. CASA membership is voluntary. In order to become a member, an individual must apply for membership, pay dues, and subscribe to the principles of CASA. CASA members also must self-identify as members of an immigrant or working-class community.

7. Currently, the annual fee for CASA membership is \$35. Alternatively, individuals may pay a recurring membership fee of \$5 per month. The membership fee can be waived for individuals who experience financial hardship or are otherwise unable to pay. Members are also offered the opportunity, for an additional \$5, to obtain a CASA ID. This is a physical, picture identification card that contains basic information about the member. For many of our immigrant members, this card may be the only type of picture identification they have, other than documents from their home country. In certain jurisdictions, CASA IDs are recognized for the

purposes of engaging with certain government agencies, including the police.

8. CASA's mission is to create a more just society by building power and improving the quality of life in working-class Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and immigrant communities. From CASA's beginnings in a church basement, we have envisioned a future with diverse and thriving communities living free from discrimination and fear, working together with mutual respect to achieve human rights for all.

9. In furtherance of this mission, CASA offers a wide variety of social, health, job training, employment, and legal services to immigrant communities, with a particular focus in Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. CASA also offers a more limited suite of services remotely to our members across the United States. Those individuals who are not geographically close to a physical CASA office are offered the opportunity to join a national organizing committee, whose members are entitled to vote on CASA's organizational priorities and integrated into our member-led system of internal democratic governance. CASA also conducts campaigns to inform members of immigrant communities of their rights and assists individuals in applying a variety of government benefits. In addition, CASA provides its members with free remote legal assistance, including free legal consultations on immigration issues.

**The Interim Final Rule (IFR) and Registration Requirements Directly Harm CASA's Members**

10. CASA has many members who are, or are likely to be, directly harmed by the Interim Final Rule and the registration requirements it imposes. Many of our members are noncitizens, including individuals with U.S. citizen children or plans to start families here.

11. CASA has provided legal and other social services to thousands of such individuals and is a national leader in advocating for immigration protections, such as Temporary

Protected Status (TPS), DACA and other forms of relief.

12. Based on CASA's records, I am aware of several members<sup>1</sup> who would be negatively impacted if the IFR were allowed to go into effect:

13. **YL** is a CASA member originally from Mexico who currently resides in Georgia. She entered the U.S. in 2016 without inspection and did not have any contact with immigration authorities. She has never had a case in immigration court or applied for immigration relief. YL has been active with CASA for the last two years, engaging in her local organizing committee, and participating in public demonstrations related to a variety of issues, including housing and climate justice. In support of these issues, she has engaged in lobbying activity with CASA at both the state and national level. Outside of CASA, she has engaged in political activity, including engaging voters to support candidates who champion immigrant communities though she cannot vote herself. YL is the mother of a 5-year-old son, who has a speech impediment and needs occupational and speech therapy. The IFR has caused her to become more afraid to speak out because she fears that it could expose her and her son to targeting by the federal government. With respect to the actual registration process, she doesn't feel like she would be able to complete it because she is not very good with technology, and wouldn't feel comfortable creating an account and completing the form online – especially because she has limited English proficiency, and the form is only available in English. Her biggest fear is that she will be separated from her young son, who is a U.S. citizen, and who has never been cared for by anyone else. That fear keeps her up at night. She is also afraid that her partner, who is the sole wage earner in the family, could be detained and deported as well, depriving them of their only income. YL has been exposed to discrimination in the U.S. because

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<sup>1</sup> All names used in this declaration are pseudonyms.

of her inability to speak English, including in the school system when she enrolled her child in pre-Kindergarten and when she reported a situation of bullying at school. The Principal promised to help resolve the situation, but it only got worse. Her son would have night terrors and lost his appetite because of the situation. When she visited her son's classroom, she saw him being bullied without teachers intervening. In contrast, parents who were able to speak English got the support they needed. With CASA, she is fighting for a just immigration system that will allow her and her family to live in peace, free from the fear that this IFR invokes. She sees the deep concern about the IFR and anti-immigrant environment generally from the other parents at her school and wants to continue fighting for immigration reform so that they can speak out and create a better education system for all the children where she lives. Children deserve to have a dignified education, not to live in fear.

14. **ME** is a CASA member originally from Guatemala who currently resides in Pennsylvania. He entered the U.S. without inspection and without contact with immigration authorities in 2004. He has never been placed in removal proceedings or applied for any immigration benefit in the United States. ME currently works as a carpenter and has four children, aged 1, 8, 15 and 18, all of whom are United States citizens. ME proudly pays his taxes every year and abides by all the laws of this country. He has been active with CASA since 2023 and currently sits on our member leadership council, helping to decide on the priorities for CASA in Pennsylvania and across the organization. During his time as a CASA member he has participated in public demonstrations, including a rally for citizenship in Washington DC. Outside of CASA, ME has engaged in political activity to support his preferred candidates, hoping to elect leaders who will improve the lives of immigrant communities and fight for just immigration reform, though he cannot vote himself. He is afraid to register, because it could

expose himself and his family, including his wife who is also undocumented, to the risk of detention and deportation. This would tear his family apart and leave his children, including their one-year-old, without any support. Even if he tried to register, though, like many of our members he would struggle to complete the process due to his limited English proficiency and lack of technical expertise.

15. AC is a CASA member originally from Mexico, currently residing in Pennsylvania. She entered the U.S. without inspection and without contact with immigration authorities in 2000. She has never been placed in removal proceedings or applied for any immigration benefit in the U.S. AC has four U.S. citizen children, ages 9, 12, 13 and 23. She lives with her partner, who is the father of her youngest three children. He is also undocumented and at risk of detention and deportation if forced to register. She has been an outspoken advocate with CASA since 2018, exercising her First Amendment rights to speak out against immigration detention and other issues. AC regularly participates in organizing meetings and has engaged in public protests with CASA as well as lobbying efforts to persuade elected officials in Pennsylvania to support CASA priorities. As a CASA member leader, AC has traveled to Washington DC, to participate in national protests and lobby Congress, and given interviews to the media on issues she is passionate about. She has never been arrested or had any negative interactions with law enforcement in the U.S. and regularly performs community service. Sadly, AC has frequently been the victim of discrimination in the U.S. When she was working in a restaurant, she experienced verbal abuse and threats of deportation from her manager. This is part of what motivates her activism. The IFR has caused her to feel panic about speaking out in public, however, because she fears that she could be targeted and arrested for her actions. She is afraid that if she complies with the registration requirement, immigration will come to arrest her

and separate her from her family, while if she doesn't comply she could be subject to criminal penalties. To her, the IFR represents an attack on the life that she has built in this country and a way to silence her voice. Her children rely on her for support and would be terrified if she were taken away from them. Having lived in the United States for decades, since she was a teenager, after fleeing domestic violence as a child in Mexico, she cannot imagine returning there, to a country she has not known her entire adult life.

16. **JC** is a CASA member originally from El Salvador who currently resides in Virginia. He entered the U.S. without inspection and without contact with immigration authorities in 2014. He has never been placed in removal proceedings or applied for any immigration benefit in the U.S. JC works for a construction company, doing plumbing and electrical work. His elderly father who still lives in El Salvador depends on him for economic support, and if he were unable to work or was deported back to El Salvador his father would not be able to support himself. Recently, his father needed surgery, from which he is still recovering. JC helped pay for the surgery and without the money he sends home his father would not have been able to get the care he needs. JC has been an outspoken advocate with CASA for more than eight years, exercising his First Amendment rights to call for immigration reform and other causes at the state and national level. He has engaged with CASA's organizing committees throughout his time with our organization, and has been an outspoken public activist, participating in lobbying elected officials, engaging in marches and rallies, as well as speaking to the media about issues that are important to him personally and to CASA's membership generally. He believes that there is strength in unity, and that it is vital for people to feel free to come together to fight against injustice. JC thinks the community must be empowered with information and education about their rights, while building hope for a better future together.

The IFR makes him afraid to speak out publicly, because his political views and the policy positions he believes in are not aligned with the current administration. If he complies with the regulation and registers, he is afraid that he could be targeted and persecuted for his activism, while if he does not comply with the requirement he could be subjected to criminal penalties. Additionally, he does not trust the registration process online, because he is afraid of government surveillance. He is very careful with how he interacts with the internet on his phone and other devices. He doesn't want them to be able to access his sensitive and private information.

**17. ALDC** is a CASA member originally from Honduras who currently resides in Virginia with her husband. She entered the United States without inspection and without contact with immigration authorities in 2006. She has never been placed in removal proceedings or applied for any immigration relief in the United States. Her husband also does not have lawful immigration status and would be required to register under the IFR. ALDC has three United States citizen children, ages 12, 14 and 16. Her youngest child has complications from meningitis that requires constant medication with antibiotics and regular doctors' visits to ensure that the infection is under control. The meningitis is in his brain and he required surgery on it right after he was born, when he was only four months old. ALDC has been an active leader with CASA over the last three years, speaking out about issues that are important to her through CASA's organizing committees and through participation in public actions like marches and rallies. She decided to become a leader with CASA because she saw the need to take action to build community power and solidarity. The IFR makes her afraid to speak out because she feels like she might be targeted by the government for her participation. She is also afraid to register with the government because she believes it will lead to her detention and potential deportation. Her children need her and if they were separated they would have no one to take

care of them other than her husband, who is also at risk of deportation. Her youngest son would not be able to get the medical care and support he needs in Honduras and her other children would be at risk of being victimized by gangs or other bad actors – whether they were here, in the United States without her or if they were forced to go with her to Honduras. Additionally, she doesn't even know how she would complete the registration requirement, since she doesn't read or understand English well and isn't good with computers, so she wouldn't feel able to complete the online registration form.

**18.** NC is a CASA member originally from El Salvador who currently resides in Maryland with her two adult children. She entered the United States without inspection in 2004 and has resided in this country since then. She has never had contact with immigration officials, had a case in immigration court, or applied for any immigration benefit in the United States. NC works as a cleaner and supports her elderly mother who lives in El Salvador. Her mother does not work and depends on the money NC sends to live. NC has been a vocal activist with CASA, giving testimony before elected officials on issues that are important to her. Since 2021 she has participated in numerous public demonstrations with CASA, in support of causes like tenant rights, increased access to healthcare for Marylanders, and expanded immigration protections for people across the country. She has spoken publicly at many of these events, including testifying and lobbying in front of elected officials at the local, state and national government, as well as giving interviews to the media. The IFR has caused her a lot of fear and uncertainty about exercising her right to speak out and caused her to question whether she should participate in the activities she has in the past, because she does not have any protection if the government decides to target her for her speech. More broadly, the IFR has impacted her whole life. She feels that is being offered a terrible choice, between putting herself and her family at risk by giving her



information to immigration officials or being criminalized for failing to comply with the registration requirement. Being deported would be a disaster for her because she would have to abandon the life that she has built here and start over in El Salvador. She doesn't feel like she has a future there and if she were forced to return, she could not come back to the U.S. where her life is. She's most worried, though, about her family, who would lose all the financial support she provides. NC runs a small business and always pays her taxes, contributing to her community in whatever way she can. The income she earns from that business, in addition to supporting her immediate family and her elderly mother, also helps to pay for medicine for her brother, who is very sick. He would not be able to afford that medicine if she could not provide for him. Even if she tried to register, however, she doesn't think she would be able to do so because she wouldn't be able to navigate the process to set up an account and fill out the registration form online. NC has very limited English proficiency and wouldn't be able to read or understand the questions on the form, forcing her to complete and sign something she didn't understand. After living in the U.S. for more than 20 years, NC believes that rather than forcing people like her to fill out a registration form, the government should create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants living in this country and finally enact immigration reform that respects the dignity and humanity of all people.

**19. PH** is a CASA member originally from Mexico who now resides in Maryland, with his partner and two children. He entered the United States without inspection and without contact with immigration officials in 2004. Both of his children are U.S. citizens, but his wife is also undocumented and at risk of deportation. He has never appeared before an immigration court in the United States or applied for any immigration benefit. PH works in a church two days a week doing maintenance and the other three days he works at a mechanic's shop. He has

been engaged with CASA for two decades and has participated in a number of our campaigns, including the successful fight to get access to drivers' licenses for immigrants in Maryland. PH routinely participates in public demonstrations with CASA, proudly joining regardless of conditions, including turning out in the rain and snow to lift up his voice for immigrant communities. PH has given numerous interviews to the media over the course of his activism with CASA. Due to the IFR, however, he is afraid to speak out because he fears that he will be targeted by the government. Navigating the process to register would be incredibly difficult for him, with his limited English proficiency posing a huge barrier to his ability to create an online account, let alone fill out the registration form. In addition, he is afraid to register because he believes it could lead to his detention and deportation by immigration officials, with his previous outspoken activism and support of immigrant rights issues a cause for selection prosecution. If he were detained and eventually removed from the U.S., it would leave his children without a father or hope for the future.

20. These members—and countless others like them—represent the human cost of the IFR and the registration requirement. If enforced, the rule will irreparably harm the communities CASA serves by placing families at risk of separation, jeopardizing livelihoods, and cutting off access to essential healthcare and services. It will also exacerbate fear and anxiety among immigrants, especially those who have built their lives here and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

21. Since the IFR's publication, we have already seen an increase in fear and hesitation among our members. Many are choosing not to seek services or participate in civic life due to concerns over government surveillance and deportation. The mental anguish alone—stemming from the possibility of family separation and forced return to countries they fled—has

been severe and widespread.

22. CASA has also been harmed as an organization as a result of the Registration IFR. We have had to devote significant internal resources to developing messaging guidance for our staff and members, explaining the Rule and answering community questions about it. We have devoted staff time that is desperately needed for other things, including other legal services from our legal department and existing priorities for our community organizing department, to building educational materials about the IFR.

23. Had we been offered the opportunity to comment via the Notice and Comment process, CASA could have organized our members to respond to the proposed rule. Given the very short time period for the IFR, and the fact that the government does not even have to consider the comments submitted, we were not able to do so.

24. As noted in the member stories from this Declaration, there are significant technical hurdles to even engaging in the Registration process and the majority of our members, as well as similarly situated individuals in immigrant communities across the country, would not be able to comply with the requirements due to limited English proficiency, lack of technical skills, difficulties accessing the internet and other barriers. Even if they were able to successfully create an online account and try to fill out the registration form, the form itself is confusing. For example, the question that asks “Immigration status at last arrival” in Form G-325R provides a blank text box and only one pre-printed text option in the dropdown menu of answers: “EWI – Entry Without Inspection.”


25. This IFR, which hastily resurrects a registration system that was never meant to fulfill the purpose articulated in the Rule, represents a significant challenge to CASA’s mission, a major burden on our members and staff, and a source of fear and apprehension for our

communities. Both in process and substance, the IFR fails to meet the basic standards of what is required under the law and what we as an organization demand of our government.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on March 30, 2025  
Washington, District of Columbia

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George Escobar

## **EXHIBIT G, DIST. CT ECF NO. 4-5**

### **DECLARATION OF SIENNA FONTAINE**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, et al.,

*Plaintiffs*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, et al.,

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-cv-00943

**DECLARATION OF SIENNA FONTAINE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'  
MOTION FOR A STAY OF EFFECTIVE DATES UNDER 5 U.S.C. § 705  
OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No.

**DECLARATION OF SIENNA FONTAINE,  
GENERAL COUNSEL,  
MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK**

I, Sienna Fontaine, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare as follows:

1. I am General Counsel of Make the Road New York (MRNY). I am slated to become a co-Executive Director of MRNY as of April 1, 2025. As part of MRNY's Executive Team, I am responsible for shaping many of MRNY's organizational priorities; overseeing our staff; and fundraising. I have worked at MRNY since 2015.

2. MRNY is a nonprofit, membership-based community organization that integrates adult and youth education, legal and survival services, and community and civic engagement, in a holistic approach to help low-income New Yorkers improve their lives and neighborhoods. MRNY

has five community centers in New York, located in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and in Suffolk and Westchester Counties.

**MRNY's Mission and Activities**

3. MRNY's mission is to build the power of immigrant and working-class communities to achieve dignity and justice.

4. MRNY provides services to thousands of individuals every year. To fulfill our mission, MRNY engages in four core strategies: the provision of legal and survival services, transformative education, community organizing, and policy innovation.

5. MRNY is a membership-based organization. Currently, we have over 28,000 members residing in New York City, Westchester County, and Long Island. Members must demonstrate a commitment to the mission of the organization and be enrolled by one of our organizers.

6. Our membership is drawn primarily from Spanish-speaking immigrant communities. Although we do not collect immigration status information for our members, our long history engaging our members in the fight for immigration reforms and supporting them in sharing their personal stories with elected officials and others has shown that many of our members are neither U.S. citizens nor Lawful Permanent Residents. MRNY's membership includes U.S. citizens and noncitizens alike, many of whom belong to mixed-status families—that is, families consisting of both individuals with U.S. citizenship, lawful immigration status or lawful presence, and individuals who are undocumented, or without such status.

7. MRNY maintains a database of its members. However, we do not have current contact information or a means of reaching all of our members, as individuals change phone numbers and addresses frequently. The frequency of these changes reflects the composition of our membership, which is drawn from low-income and working communities who often face financial hardship.



While we strive to remain in contact with our members, these realities mean we cannot reliably reach all our members in a timely way.

8. Because of concerns for our members' privacy and the importance of their trust in MRNY as crucial to our mission and work, MRNY does not share our membership information with third parties including governmental agencies.

9. MRNY's organizing team leads our advocacy work and campaigns. In the past, we have helped secure important legislative victories and reforms from expansion of eligibility for drivers' licenses in New York State to creation of a groundbreaking Excluded Workers Fund for workers unable to access unemployment and pandemic benefits because of their immigration status.

10. MRNY's organizing team facilitates standing issue-based committees in areas of importance to our members including immigrant and civil rights, housing and environmental justice, educational justice, workplace justice and TGNCIQ (Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, Intersex, Queer) justice and various youth issues. Newcomers to the organization are invited to join one of our organizing committees in which participants share stories, learn about legal and policy developments, and engage in discussions about the problems they are facing and collectively devise solutions. Some of MRNY's longstanding committees are the Civil Rights and Immigrant Power Project ("CRIPP"), which works on campaigns for immigration reforms at the state and federal level; BASTA, which works on campaigns for housing and environmental justice; Youth Power Project, which works on issues impacting young people; and the Trans Immigrant Project (TriP), which supports and advocates for rights for TGNCIQ communities.

11. MRNY's services teams, which include legal, health, and adult education, are on the front line with immigrant communities in New York and serve thousands of immigrants each

year. Our immigration legal team covers a wide range of cases, including affirmative applications such as adjustment of status, naturalization, DACA, TPS, and visas for survivors of violence, as well as removal defense before the immigration courts. In addition, the legal team assists other departments in advocacy, planning, and training related to proposed laws or regulations. Our housing legal team, which represents many MRNY members, assists hundreds of families in housing court cases involving evictions, hazardous conditions, and housing discrimination. Our workplace justice team represents workers to recover unpaid wages, paid sick leave, and combat unlawful employment discrimination.

12. Both our organizing and our legal teams devote tremendous resources to providing community education and legal information. Just in 2025, we have provided dozens of trainings and presentations, primarily geared towards providing our members with crucial information about policy changes and their rights. Our staff develops and provides these trainings in response to our members' questions and needs.

13. Our legal team has also led numerous efforts to submit comments on federal regulations, both on behalf of MRNY and on behalf of our individual members. MRNY has submitted detailed comments in response to notices of proposed rulemaking on a wide range of issues of importance to our members and to the broader immigrant and immigration services community. Among those we have commented on are proposed regulatory changes to asylum processing; the public charge rule; the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status application process; fees charged by USCIS and the immigration court; the "transit ban" affecting asylum seekers; employment authorization processing; and expedited removal.

14. MRNY's health team promotes the health and well-being of our community members, by providing health services to community members, assisting eligible individuals in

obtaining health insurance and other benefits, operating food pantries and other programs to expand health and food access, and advocating for improved access to healthcare for immigrants.

15. Lastly, MRNY's adult education team provides English-language classes for hundreds of individuals for whom English is not their first language and assists immigrants with civics, adult basic education, and citizenship classes.

**The Interim Final Rule and Registration Requirements Directly Harm MRNY's Members**

16. MRNY has members who are or may be directly impacted by Executive Order 14159, (Jan. 20, 2025), 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (Jan. 20, 2025) [hereinafter Jan. 20 EO] and Interim Final Rule ("IFR"), 90 Fed. Reg. at 11794, the proposed G-325R registration form and mandatory registration and carry requirements.

17. MRNY's members include noncitizens who have entered without inspection, are over the age of 14, and have been continuously present for more than 30 days. *See* IFR, 90 Fed. Reg. at 11794.

18. The IFR makes clear that "Noncitizens not previously registered through the visa process and newly required to register and be fingerprinted under the IFR can be prosecuted if they fail to register or to be fingerprinted." 90 Fed. Reg. at 11794 (citing 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a)).

19. The IFR also states that "Noncitizens newly issued proof of registration and fingerprinting under the IFR can be prosecuted for failure to carry that proof of registration at all times." *Id.* (citing 8 U.S.C. § 1304(e)); *id.* at 11795 (stating the intent to enforce that requirement); *id.* at 11797 (stating that new universal registration comes with a new obligation to carry proof of registration).

20. MRNY's members include noncitizens who may have entered without inspection but who may currently have a pending application for immigration relief such as a U visa or DACA

application, some of whom have had a biometrics appointment already, but have not yet received a U.S. Employment Authorization Document (EAD) that would qualify as valid “registration” under the IFR requirement. *See* 90 Fed. Reg. at 11795. For instance, MRNY has actively advocated for DACA and protection for the DACA program for many years and is one of the largest providers of DACA-related legal services in New York. In 2020 and 2021, MRNY helped dozens of people submit first-time DACA applications, including some of our members, which were never adjudicated due to a court order in July 2021. Some of these members provided biometrics to the government prior to the halt in adjudications.

21. For those members not required to register, they still face a risk of being erroneously stopped, arrested, or charged under the IFR’s criminal misdemeanor provisions, or required to “self-deport”, either because they do not have, or do not carry on their person at all times, documentation of their application or receipt of application for immigration relief. This risk is especially acute if they are detained, which impedes access to documents and contact with MRNY or other legal service providers. All of our members, meanwhile, now face a risk of biased enforcement action, whether based on their race as people of color; their perceived lack of English-language fluency; or their participation in core speech, like attendance at MRNY rallies and events.

22. MRNY members live in areas where encounters with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officers are common. MRNY has assisted hundreds of families in the New York City area who have been or who have had a loved one detained by ICE. In addition, under the present administration, ICE regularly detains so-called “collateral” individuals when conducting home or other raids. A feature of these detentions in recent months is that individuals are often difficult to contact, because they are transferred quickly out of the New York area or between detention facilities, and their inaccessibility makes it difficult to obtain important

documentation related to their cases. These detentions demonstrate the high risk of detention and potential criminal penalties faced by MRNY members and all undocumented New Yorkers, which the IFR heightens.

23. Among our members who will be impacted by the IFR because they would be newly required to register are the following:

24. “Guvelia”<sup>1</sup> is a 62-year-old grandmother and great-grandmother, a long-time member of MRNY, and a noncitizen who lives in New York. She has been in the U.S. for more than 20 years. She has applied for U Nonimmigrant Status by filing a Form I-918, which she did using a safe address, and recently provided biometrics as part of her application process. “Guvelia” has five children, two of whom are U.S. citizens and one of whom is a Lawful Permanent Resident, ten U.S. citizen grandchildren, and one U.S. citizen great-grandchild. She is very low income, works as a nanny, and collects recycling on the street to make ends meet. She is eligible for U Nonimmigrant Status because she and two of her children were assaulted by a group of young men with sticks, rods, and fists outside of their apartment building in Brooklyn, NY and she assisted in the arrest and prosecution of one of the assailants. She recently filed this petition and, as a result, “Guvelia” does not yet have an EAD document related to it; she also does not have any other proof of registration to carry on her person if she is stopped and criminally prosecuted for failing to carry “registration” papers under the IFR. “Guvelia” has been an active MRNY member since 2011, and she has regularly participated in MRNY’s committee meetings, been a part of protests in New York City, and traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for her community. In addition to being

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<sup>1</sup> To protect the privacy, safety and security of our members, all members listed in this declaration are identified under pseudonyms.

fearful of registration in general, she is concerned that she would have to list her advocacy and related activities on behalf of undocumented immigrants on the G-325R form and that this would make her a target for enforcement, separating her from her U.S. citizen children and grandchildren.

25. “Rosa” is a 49-year-old mother, a long-time member of MRNY, and a noncitizen who lives in New York. She has been in the U.S. for more than 20 years, and has never applied for an affirmative immigration benefit. “Rosa” and her husband have two U.S. citizen children, aged nine and thirteen. She takes care of her children full-time at home. “Rosa” fears that registration would mean that she would either face criminal consequences or be deported, and that in either case she would be separated from her young children and from her husband. She has not returned to her home country in more than 20 years; she left in 2002 because she received death threats from gangs in her community, and has not returned because she faces continued threats of persecution from distant family members and the same gangs. She has never had any interaction with law enforcement and just wants to live in peace with her children—one of whom intends to join the army. “Rosa” has been an active MRNY member since 2010, and she has regularly participated in MRNY’s committee meetings, been a part of protests in New York City, and often attends press conferences and other events. In addition to being fearful of registration in general, she is concerned that she would have to list her advocacy and related activities on the G-325R form, and that this would make her a target for retaliatory enforcement.

26. “Michael” is a 27-year-old member of MRNY and a noncitizen who has lived in the U.S. since the age of eleven. He attended middle school, high school and college in New York City, graduating with bachelor’s degrees in three different subjects. He lives with his mother and two siblings, all of whom are undocumented and, like him, do not have proof of registration. The United States is the only home that he knows, having lived here for the majority of his life.

“Michael” is also concerned about racial profiling under the new registration regime, particularly against his mother and brother who are darker-skinned than he is. “Michael” has been an extremely active member of MRNY for over a decade, participating in trips to Albany, Washington DC, and elsewhere and joining protests in the streets of New York. He has also given press interviews and written letters in English and Spanish on key issues of importance to MRNY and MRNY members. He fears that registration would make him and his family members easy targets for retaliation.

27. “Alice” is a member of MRNY and a noncitizen who lives in New York City and has lived in the U.S. for over 20 years. She has never applied for an affirmative immigration benefit and does not have any registration documents. “Alice” has been a victim of domestic violence and sought recourse through the court system. She is afraid that the new registration process will be used as a tool to intimidate, abuse and exclude people, particularly Latinos, because of their race and their immigration status. She fears that the registration requirement will also empower others, including employers and abusive partners, to intimidate individuals without status by threatening to report them. “Alice” has been an extremely active member of MRNY’s committees and participated in many MRNY actions and events, including protests and press events. She is concerned that the new registration process and rumors stemming from the process will prevent people like her from engaging in political speech and activism with organizations like MRNY.

28. “Marie” is a 22-year-old member of Make the Road New York and a noncitizen. “Marie” came to the U.S. at the age of two and earned her high school and bachelor’s degrees in New York. When she turned 15, she became eligible for DACA—but before she could file her application, the program was halted through an executive order. When it reopened in late 2020, she submitted her application, with proof of her presence in the U.S. since 2007 and compliance with other requirements, and she attended a biometrics appointment. But another halt to the

program, this time through a court order in July 2021, halted adjudication of her application. Because she never received employment authorization through the DACA process, she is subject to the registration requirement. She is nervous about the choice registration will force her to make between putting herself and her family members at risk of immigration enforcement and facing fines or other penalties for failing to register, something she did not fear as a DACA applicant because of the purpose of the DACA program and the protections that it offered. “Marie” became active in MRNY five years ago and has attended events and spoken with elected officials in New York City and in Albany on behalf of the organization. She fears that registration would make her and her family members targets for retaliation.

29. As these individuals demonstrate, MRNY members and the communities MRNY serves will be irreparably harmed by the Registration EO and IFR.

30. MRNY also witnesses and experiences these harms through our broader work. Every day, hundreds of people come to MRNY’s five community-based offices or directly contact a member of our staff seeking information and assistance on a range of issues, particularly in the aforementioned areas including immigration, housing, workplace justice and healthcare. Our staff regularly hold committee meetings, community-education sessions, and one-on-one meetings with our members and the communities we serve. Because of this, we experience firsthand the very harmful impact of national policy changes targeting immigrants. Already, members and staff at MRNY have expressed concern about the IFR and requested information, trainings and advice.

31. Our staff have shared that there is immense confusion about the IFR and to whom it applies among our members. The questions posed by our members have reflected a variety of immigration postures: for instance, people who have previously been in removal proceedings; have a denied application with USCIS; or are unsure under what legal mechanism they entered at the



U.S. border. A group of members in Queens asked if having an ITIN fulfilled the registration requirement. The complexity and hasty rollout of the IFR have left many members confused and vulnerable to misinformation.

32. This confusion is very difficult to dispel except through extensive one-on-one consultation. Already, our legal team's experience in providing immigration legal services and engaging in community education has demonstrated how complex the individual analysis into whether one is required to register—and the barriers to our members understanding and complying with this rule—may be. For instance, individuals may not know whether their admission at a U.S. border was pursuant to parole or not. Individuals may not have an easy way to tell whether a Notice to Appear (NTA) was issued to them, given the wide variation in case processing that individuals who entered through the southern U.S. border have undergone in recent years (including the issuance of other documents in place of an NTA, such as an I-385 Notice to Report, and long lapses between issuance and filing of an NTA) as well as the unreliability of service by mail. Members and clients that we work with generally do not know which documents were issued to them at the border and many have lost their documents by the time they reach New York. Under the IFR, the only way to verify their registration status and obtain the documents they must now carry by law would be through a FOIA request—which is a multi-step process that can take months, consumes staff time, and requires maintaining contact. It is also confusing. For instance, not all of our members issued NTAs were fingerprinted in the process. The IFR's suggestion that they do not need to do anything else to be considered "registered" leaves no guidance and open questions about whether they also need to comply with the fingerprinting requirement. The same is true with our members who submit an I-485 and for whom it is unclear if they were previously

fingerprinted or if any prior fingerprinting, potentially decades ago, is sufficient for purposes of the registration.

33. This complexity and inconsistency in the rule already pose huge challenges to MRNY's staff, who cannot confidently advise our members on their need to register in the group settings in which we conduct committee meetings and workshops, often with dozens of attendees. The confusing nature of the registration, coupled with its nearly universal impact, undermines our model of providing community education and know-your-rights presentations to our members and communities, since the registration requirement is nearly impossible to advise on in a group setting. Given that we have tens of thousands of members, our legal team cannot possibly advise all of them.

34. This confusion facilitates fraud. MRNY has seen fraud perpetrated against immigrant communities over many years. Many members and other community members have been defrauded by people promising to complete immigration-related forms that the members did not understand—for instance, change of venue forms, asylum applications, or other relief applications for which the individuals did not qualify. In some instances, these fraudulent providers then do not submit the form at all; in others they submit it with erroneous information and without advising the applicant of the consequences or next steps. Our staff fear that the registration process will facilitate the growth of this type of fraud in the future, particularly given the hasty way the IFR was rolled out, the widespread confusion among our members and immigrant communities about who is required to register, and the necessity of creating a MyUSCIS account and filing online, which many of our members lack the technological and language capability to do.

35. Community members we serve have also expressed fear and confusion about this change. Among those concerns is that MRNY's most visible and active members, who regularly

participate in our events, could become targets for retaliatory enforcement, whether they register or not. Our members' fear has a direct impact on our work, which centers on building power and advocating for the rights of low-income and immigrant communities. MRNY's organizing often relies on attendance at in-person events, such as rallies, protests, and lobbying days, and on storytelling and sharing of individual stories publicly in furtherance of our policy proposals and goals. The IFR has a chilling effect on individuals' willingness to participate in those crucial forms of advocacy and storytelling. The disclosures required on the G-325R form also cause a chilling effect, by requiring members to list advocacy efforts that may be seen as in opposition to current government policy. This chilling effect directly impacts our work as our members, even those not required to register under the new rule, become afraid to exercise their First Amendment right to speech.

36. Our members demonstrate the difficulty of compliance with registration. MRNY's base is low-income and working New Yorkers, many of whom face barriers to technology access; do not speak English; or do not have a stable address. In 2024, the New York City's shelter system also began a mandatory 30- or 60-day eviction system, which deepened address instability. Our membership includes dozens of individuals in the shelter system who are impacted by the transitory nature of shelter housing.

37. Our members, including those newly subject to the mandatory registration requirement and those who are not legally required to register but may have difficulty adducing proof of "registration," may now face arbitrary racial profiling at any time. Neither the EO nor the IFR explain how law enforcement will be expected to identify individuals who either failed to register or are actively violating the requirement that they carry proof of registration at all times. This leaves open the possibility that people who resemble our members—people of color who

primarily speak languages other than English—will be stereotyped and subjected to arbitrary stops and arrests for failing to carry proof of registration. The consequences of such arbitrary arrests and detentions include trauma, family separation, deportation, criminal prosecution, and the broader normalization of discrimination against our members. The EO and IFR force immigrants and mixed-status families to live in daily fear that they will be permanently separated from their U.S.-citizen or other lawfully present family members, or that other members of their family will be subjected to the same fate, as they are required to disclose their “personal activities” and the identity and location of their closest family members on the proposed G-325R Form.

38. Given our commitment to participating in the notice and comment process, MRNY would certainly have submitted a detailed comment in response to a notice of proposed rule-making about changes to the registration process and would have supported our members and staff in doing the same.

39. Instead, the IFR and G-325R mandatory registration requirements, abruptly promulgated without any opportunity for input from organizations like ours, subjects MRNY members to a drastic and confusing change in law. Our members may now face arbitrary searches, seizures, racial profiling, criminal charges or potential deportations, from which there is no relief, simply by stepping outside their home to run an errand at the grocery store, going to the doctor, or picking up their children from school – if they fail to carry their “papers” or “proof of registration” on their person at all times. This harms not only our members but MRNY itself.

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sienna Fontaine", written in a cursive style.

---

Sienna Fontaine

Executed this 30th day of March, 2025  
New York, New York

**EXHIBIT H, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-2**

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS  
UNDER 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a)**

DOA: 4/17/2025

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
District of Arizona

United States of America )

v. )

Eduardo Prado Flores )

[REDACTED] )

Defendant )

Case No. 25-5225MJ

## CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Beginning on or about April 15, 2022, and continuing through April 16, 2025, in Maricopa County, in the District of Arizona, the defendant violated Title 8, United States Code, Section 1306(a) (Failure to Register as an Alien), an offense described as follows:

EDUARDO PRADO FLORES, then being an alien required to apply for registration and to be fingerprinted in the United States, did willfully fail or refuse to file an application for such registration, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1306(a) (Class B Misdemeanor).

I further state that I am a Deportation Officer.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

## See Attached Statement of Probable Cause Incorporated By Reference Herein

AUTHORIZED BY: AUSA Addison Owen

Digitally signed by  
ADDISON OWEN  
Date: 2025.04.17  
14:34:07 -0700☒ Continued on the attached sheet.JOHN A  
BURGERDigitally signed by  
JOHN A BURGER  
Date: 2025.04.17  
15:15:44 -07'00'

Complainant's signature

Supervisory Detention and Deportation  
Officer John Burger  
Department of Homeland Security,  
Enforcement and Removal Operations

Printed name and title

Sworn to telephonically.

Date: April 17, 2025 @ 4:14pm

Judge's signature

City and state: Phoenix, Arizona

HONORABLE DEBORAH M. FINE  
United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

### STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

I, Deportation Officer John Burger, declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct.

1. I am a Deportation Officer. I have learned the facts recited herein from direct participation in the investigation and from the reports and communications of other agents and officers.
2. EDUARDO PRADO FLORES, hereafter “Defendant”, is a twenty-five-year-old alien unlawfully present in the United States. Defendant is a citizen of Mexico.
3. On April 16, 2025, Defendant was contacted by Department of Homeland Security, Enforcement and Removal Operations (ICE/ERO) after being released from jail on Driving Under the Influence charges.
4. Defendant was advised of his constitutional rights. Defendant freely and willingly acknowledged his rights and agreed to provide a statement under oath.
5. Defendant stated he had been in the United States since 2022. Defendant claimed to have entered illegally through Juarez city.
6. Pursuant to Title 8, United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 1302(a), aliens, who are 14 years or older and unlawfully present in the United States without visas or status, are required to apply for registration and to be fingerprinted if they have been in the United States 30 or more days.
7. On April 17, 2025, your affiant checked all databases and confirmed Defendant has never registered or filed any immigration paperwork.
8. Your affiant also learned Defendant was previously return to Mexico from the United



States on several occasions, to include March 29, 2022; April 1, 2022; April 7, 2022, April 9, 2022; and April 14, 2022.

9. In Defendant's written statement provided under oath after he was read his *Miranda* rights, he acknowledged the following:
  - a. He does not have a visa or other immigration paperwork to lawfully enter the United States.
  - b. He knew he needed legal documentation from the United States to enter and he has not filed paperwork with United States immigration service for legal status or permission to be in the United States.
  - c. He had not registered his presence or entry to the United States with immigration service or other United States government agency.
10. For these reasons, this affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that beginning on or about April 15, 2022 through April 16, 2025, that Defendant, an alien, who is required to register and be fingerprinted pursuant to Title 8 U.S.C. 1302(a), willfully failed to do so, in violation of Title 8, U.S.C. Section 1306(a).

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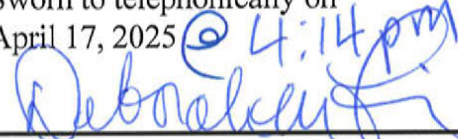
11. This affidavit was sworn to telephonically before a United States Magistrate Judge legally authorized to administer an oath for this purpose. I have thoroughly reviewed the affidavit and the attachments to it, and attest that there is sufficient evidence to establish probable cause that the defendant violated Title 8, U.S.C., Section 1306(a).

**JOHN A  
BURGER**

Digitally signed by  
JOHN A BURGER  
Date: 2025.04.17  
15:16:36 -07'00'

Supervisory Officer John Burger  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Sworn to telephonically on  
April 17, 2025

@ 4:14 pm  


HONORABLE DEBORAH M. FINE  
United States Magistrate Judge

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA  
2025 APR 21 P 3:06  
*Chad*

CAROL L. MICHEL  
CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

PETTY OFFENSE

BILL OF INFORMATION FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

\* CRIMINAL NO.

25 - 96

v.

\* SECTION:

DUTY MAG.

JOSUE ALEJANDRO GUERRERO

\* VIOLATION: 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a)

\* \* \*

The United States Attorney charges that:

COUNT 1

Beginning in or about 2022, and continuing until at least April 17, 2025, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **JOSUE ALEJANDRO GUERRERO**, then being an alien required to apply for registration and to be fingerprinted in the United States, did willfully fail or refuse to file an application for such registration, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1306(a).

MICHAEL M. SIMPSON  
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

*F. W. Veters, Jr.*

FREDERICK W. VETERS, JR. (23584)  
G. DALL KAMMER  
Assistant United States Attorneys

New Orleans, Louisiana  
April 21, 2025

✓ Fee USA  
\_\_\_\_ Process \_\_\_\_  
X Dktd \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ CtRmDep \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Doc. No. \_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**United States District Court**

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

JOSUE ALEJANDRO GUERRERO

**BILL OF INFORMATION  
FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER**

Violation(s): 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a)

Filed \_\_\_\_\_, 20 25

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk.

By \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy



Assistant United States Attorney  
FREDERICK W. VETERS, JR.

FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LA  
2025 APR 17 PM 4 21  
CAROL L. MICHEL, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

PETTY OFFENSE

BILL OF INFORMATION FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

\* CRIMINAL NO.

25-0094

v.

\* SECTION: DUTY MAG.

JUAN CARLOS CASTRO-IGNACIO

\* VIOLATION: 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a)

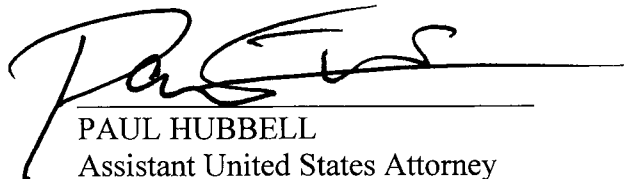
\* \* \*

The United States Attorney charges that:

COUNT 1

Beginning in or about 2001, and continuing until at least April 13, 2025, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **JUAN CARLOS CASTRO-IGNACIO**, then being an alien required to apply for registration and to be fingerprinted in the United States, did willfully fail or refuse to file an application for such registration, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1306(a).

MICHAEL M. SIMPSON  
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

  
PAUL HUBBELL  
Assistant United States Attorney

New Orleans, Louisiana  
April 17, 2025

Fee \_\_\_\_\_  
Process \_\_\_\_\_  
X Dktd \_\_\_\_\_  
CtRmDep \_\_\_\_\_  
Doc.No. \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**United States District Court**

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

JUAN CARLOS CASTRO-IGNACIO


**BILL OF INFORMATION FOR  
FAILURE TO REGISTER**

Violation(s): 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a)

Filed \_\_\_\_\_, 20 25

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk.

By \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy

  
Assistant United States Attorney  
PAUL J. HUBBELL

FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LA CR  
2025 APR 18 AM 11:56  
CAROL L. MICHEL, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

PETTY OFFENSE

BILL OF INFORMATION FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

\* CRIMINAL NO. **25-0095**

v.

\* SECTION: **DUTY MAG.**

OSBORN NASH BODDEN WELCOME

\* VIOLATION: 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a)

a/k/a OSBORN N. BODDEN

\*

a/k/a OSTIN WELCOME-BODDEN

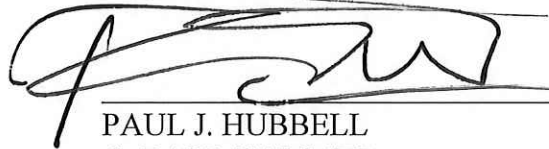
\* \* \*

The United States Attorney charges that:

COUNT 1

Beginning in or about 2001, and continuing until at least April 13, 2025, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **OSBORN NASH BODDEN WELCOME**, then being an alien required to apply for registration and to be fingerprinted in the United States, did willfully fail or refuse to file an application for such registration, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1306(a).

MICHAEL M. SIMPSON  
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



PAUL J. HUBBELL  
G. DALL KAMMER

Assistant United States Attorneys

New Orleans, Louisiana  
April 18, 2025

Fee \_\_\_\_\_  
Process \_\_\_\_\_  
X Dktd \_\_\_\_\_  
CtRmDep \_\_\_\_\_  
Doc.No. \_\_\_\_\_



United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

OSBORN NASH BODDEN WELCOME  
a/k/a OSBORN N. BODDEN  
a/k/a OSTIN WELCOME-BODDEN

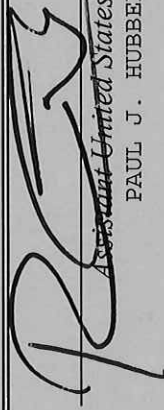
BILL OF INFORMATION FOR  
FAILURE TO REGISTER

Violation(s): 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a)

Filed 20 25

Clerk.

By Deputy

  
Assistant United States Attorney  
PAUL J. HUBBELL



FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LA  
2025 APR 22 PM 03 04  
CAROL L. MICHEL, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

PETTY OFFENSE

BILL OF INFORMATION FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

\* CRIMINAL NO.

**25-00101**

v.

\* SECTION:

**DUTY MAG.**

ARNOL HUMBERTO REYES-GALINDO  
aka ARNOL REYES-GALINDO

\* VIOLATION: 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a)

\*

\* \* \*

The United States Attorney charges that:

COUNT 1

Beginning in or about 2022, and continuing until at least April 21, 2025, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **ARNOL HUMBERTO REYES-GALINDO**, then being an alien required to apply for registration and to be fingerprinted in the United States, did willfully fail or refuse to file an application for such registration, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1306(a).

MICHAEL M. SIMPSON  
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



FREDERICK W. VETERS, JR. (23584)  
Special Assistant United States Attorney  
G. DALL KAMMER  
Assistant United States Attorneys

New Orleans, Louisiana  
April 22, 2025

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**United States District Court**

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

ARNOL HUMBERTO REYES-GALINDO  
aka ARNOL REYES-GALINDO

BILL OF INFORMATION  
FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER

Violation(s): 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a)

Filed \_\_\_\_\_, 20 25

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk.

By \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy



Special Assistant United States Attorney

FREDERICK W. VETERS, JR.

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

DOA: 4/17/2025

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
District of ArizonaUnited States of America  
v.  
Santiago Lopez Hernandez  
[REDACTED]

Case No.

25-5231M J

Defendant

## CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Beginning on or about April 17, 2023 and continuing through April 17, 2025, in Maricopa County, in the District of Arizona, the defendant violated Title 8, United States Code, Section 1306(a) (Failure to Register as an Alien), an offense described as follows:

SANTIAGO LOPEZ HERNANDEZ, then being an alien required to apply for registration and to be fingerprinted in the United States, did willfully fail or refuse to file an application for such registration, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1306(a).

I further state that I am a Deportation Officer.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

## See Attached Statement of Probable Cause Incorporated By Reference Herein

AUTHORIZED BY: AUSA Addison Owen

Digitally signed by ADDISON OWEN  
Date: 2025.04.18 13:25:24 -07'00'☒ Continued on the attached sheet.JOHN A  
BURGERDigitally signed by  
JOHN A BURGER  
Date: 2025.04.18  
13:25:24 -07'00'

Complainant's signature

Supervisory Detention and Deportation  
Officer John Burger  
Department of Homeland Security,  
Enforcement and Removal Operations

Printed name and title

Sworn to telephonically.

Date: April 18, 2025

@ 2:53pm

Judge's signature

City and state: Phoenix, Arizona

HONORABLE DEBORAH M. FINE  
United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

Page 14 of 17

Filed: 05/02/2025

Document #2114110

USCA Case #25-5152

(Page 175 of Total)

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

I, Deportation Officer John Burger, declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct.

1. I am a Deportation Officer. I have learned the facts recited herein from direct participation in the investigation and from the reports and communications of other agents and officers.
2. SANTIAGO LOPEZ HERNANDEZ, hereafter “Defendant”, is a thirty-three-year-old alien unlawfully present in the United States. Defendant is a citizen of Mexico.
3. On April 17, 2025, Defendant was contacted by Department of Homeland Security, Enforcement and Removal Operations (ICE/ERO) after being released from jail on Driving Under the Influence charges.
4. Defendant was advised of his constitutional rights. Defendant freely and willingly acknowledged his rights and agreed to provide a statement under oath.
5. Defendant stated he had been in the United States since 2023. Defendant claimed to have entered illegally through Altar, Sonora [Sasabe, Arizona].
6. Pursuant to Title 8, United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 1302(a), aliens, who are 14 years or older and unlawfully present in the United States without visas or status, are required to apply for registration and to be fingerprinted if they have been in the United States 30 or more days.
7. On April 17, 2025, your affiant reviewed record checks of all databases and confirmed Defendant has never registered or filed any immigration paperwork.
8. Your affiant also learned Defendant was previously granted voluntary return to Mexico

and removed from the United States on December 27, 2022.

9. In Defendant's written statement provided under oath after he was read his *Miranda* rights, he acknowledged the following:
  - a. He indicated he does not have a visa or other immigration paperwork to lawfully enter the United States.
  - b. He knew he needed legal documentation from the United States to enter and he has not filed paperwork with United States immigration service for legal status or permission to be in the United States.
  - c. He indicated that since entering, or before entering, he knew he was required to get a visa, or other permission from the United States, and required to register his residence.
  - d. He responded "No" indicating he has not registered his presence or entry to the United States with immigration service or other United States government agency.
  - e. He further stated "Si" (yes) that he was trying to avoid arrest and deportation by not registering his entry, presence, and residence.
10. For these reasons, this affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that beginning on or about April 17, 2023 through April 17, 2025, that Defendant, an alien, who is required to register and be fingerprinted pursuant to Title 8 U.S.C. 1302(a), willfully failed to do so, in violation of Title 8, U.S.C. Section 1306(a).

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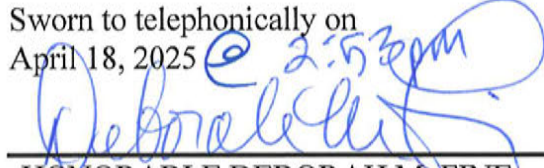
11. This affidavit was sworn to telephonically before a United States Magistrate Judge legally authorized to administer an oath for this purpose. I have thoroughly reviewed the affidavit and the attachments to it, and attest that there is sufficient evidence to establish probable cause that the defendant violated Title 8, U.S.C., Section 1306(a).

**JOHN A**  
**BURGER**

Digitally signed by  
JOHN A BURGER  
Date: 2025.04.18  
13:26:24 -07'00'

John Burger  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Sworn to telephonically on  
April 18, 2025 @ 2:53pm

  
HONORABLE DEBORAH M. FINE  
United States Magistrate Judge

**EXHIBIT I, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-3**

**DECLARATION OF UFW MEMBER “ANA”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

DECLARATION OF [REDACTED]

I hereby declare as follows:

1. My name is [REDACTED].
2. I reside in Oxnard, California. I am 50 years old.
3. I have spent the last 24 years as a farm worker picking strawberries, blueberries and cilantro.
4. I have been a United Farm Workers member since 2014. I have participated in their meetings, marches, and holiday activities.
5. I am an indigenous woman from Oaxaca, Mexico. I speak a thousand-year-old language, Mixteco Bajo. I speak very little Spanish and do not speak English. I cannot read or write.
6. I am a single mother of six children. Four of them are United States citizens, ages 16, 18, 20, and 22. My two oldest children were born in Mexico and are 30 and 32.



7. My husband was murdered in 2010. Since then, I have been raising the children on my own. I have had to work very hard to support my family and have not had time to work on improving my Spanish or English.
8. I recently learned I will need to register online with the government. I am very worried because I will not be able to complete the online form.
9. I am fearful of getting arrested and sent to jail because I am not able to complete the form.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on April \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

---

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

DECLARACIÓN DE [REDACTED]

Por la presente declaro lo siguiente:

1. Me llamo [REDACTED].
2. Vivo en Oxnard, California. Tengo 50 años.
3. He pasado los últimos 24 años como trabajadora agrícola piscando fresa, mora azul y cilantro.
4. Soy miembro de la Unión de Campesinos desde 2014. He participado en sus reuniones, marchas y actividades en días festivos.
5. Soy una mujer indígena de Oaxaca, México. Hablo una lengua milenaria, el mixteco bajo. Hablo muy poco español y no hablo inglés. No sé leer ni escribir.
6. Soy madre soltera de seis hijos. Cuatro de ellos son ciudadanos estadounidenses, de 16, 18, 20 y 22 años. Mis dos hijos mayores nacieron en México y tienen 30 y 32 años.

8. Hace poco me enteré de que tendré que registrarme en línea con el gobierno. Estoy muy preocupada porque no voy a poder rellenar el formulario en línea.
9. Tengo miedo de que me detengan y me manden a la cárcel por no ser capaz de rellenar el formulario.

Declaro bajo pena de perjurio que lo anterior es cierto y correcto.

Ejecutado el 17 de abril de 2025

— 

### CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I, Meredith Cabell, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to translate from English to Spanish, that I translated the Declaration of [REDACTED] from English to Spanish, read the Spanish translation to the declarant and Mixteco Bajo interpreter and that my translation was true and correct to the best of my ability.



Signature of Interpreter

4/15/25

Date

### CERTIFICATE OF INTERPRETATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to interpret from Spanish to Mixteco Bajo, that I interpreted the Declaration of [REDACTED] to Mixteco Bajo for the declarant, and that my interpretation was true and correct to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interpreter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### CERTIFICADO DE INTERPRETACIÓN

Yo, Felix Rodriguez, por lo presente certifico bajo pena de perjurio que estoy calificado para interpretar del español a mixteco bajo, que interpreté la Declaración de [REDACTED] a mixteco bajo para la declarante y que mi interpretación fue verdadera y correcta en la medida de mis habilidades.

Felix Rodriguez  
Firma del Interprete

04/22/25  
Fecha

**EXHIBIT J, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-4**

**DECLARATION OF UFW MEMBER  
“GLORIA”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

DECLARATION OF [REDACTED]

I hereby declare as follows:

1. I am more than 18 years of age and competent to testify, upon personal knowledge, to the facts set forth herein.
2. My name is [REDACTED].
3. I live in Ventura County, California. I am 49 years old.
4. I am a farm worker. I have spent the last six working in the strawberry fields. I am a member of the United Farm Workers.
5. I am from Oaxaca, Mexico and speak and indigenous language, Mixteco Bajo.
6. I have six children who were all born in Mexico. Two have received labor-based deferred action (“DALE”). My other children are ages 16, 18, 21 and 23.
7. I do not understand technology. I only have a flip phone that does not have Internet access.

8. I recently learned that I, along with my undocumented children, will be required to register with the government using an online system.
9. I am very concerned that I will not be able to use the online system. I am especially worried for my 16-year-old minor son, who will also need to register. If one of us makes a mistake we could get in trouble for lying to the government. I am also afraid if we don't register correctly, we could be arrested. I am also worried about my children forgetting to carry their registration and getting arrested.
10. I feel especially vulnerable and defenseless to protect my family because of my limited language skills. For example, my son faced discrimination and has been threatened by schoolmates to be reported to immigration.
11. I am fearful that I will not be able to complete the registration properly or assist my minor son with it and that I could be arrested and separated from my family.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on April \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

**DECLARACIÓN DE** [REDACTED]

Por la presente declaro lo siguiente:

1. Tengo más de 18 años y soy competente para testificar, con conocimiento personal, sobre los hechos aquí expuestos.
2. Me llamo [REDACTED].
3. Vivo en Ventura County, California. Tengo 49 años.
4. Soy trabajadora agrícola. Llevo seis años trabajando en el campo de fresas. Soy miembro de la Unión de Campesinos.
5. Soy de Oaxaca, México y hablo una lengua indígena, el mixteco bajo.
6. Tengo seis hijos, todos nacidos en México. Dos han recibido la acción diferida basada en el trabajo ("DALE"). Mis otros hijos tienen 16, 18, 21 y 23 años.
7. No entiendo de tecnología. Sólo tengo un teléfono plegable que no tiene acceso a Internet.

8. Hace poco me enteré de que yo, junto con mis hijos indocumentados, tendremos que registramos con el gobierno mediante un sistema en línea.
9. Estoy muy preocupada que no voy a poder utilizar el sistema en línea. Me preocupa especialmente por mi hijo menor de 16 años, que también tendrá que registrarse. Si uno de nosotros cometemos un error, podríamos tener problemas por mentir al gobierno. También temo que, si no nos empadronamos correctamente, nos arrestan. También me preocupa que mis hijos se olviden llevar su registro y sean detenidos.
10. Me siento especialmente vulnerable e indefensa para proteger a mi familia debido a mis limitados conocimientos lingüísticos. Por ejemplo, mi hijo ha sufrido discriminación y ha sido amenazado por compañeros de colegio con denunciarlo a inmigración.
11. Tengo miedo de no poder completar el registro correctamente o ayudar a mi hijo menor de edad con el y de que me detengan y me separen de mi familia.
12. Declaro bajo pena de perjurio que lo anterior es cierto y correcto.

Ejecutado el 15 de abril de 2025

[Redacted Signature]

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION**

I, Meredith Cabell, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to translate from English to Spanish, that I translated the Declaration of [REDACTED] from English to Spanish, and that my translation is true and correct to the best of my ability.



Signature of Interpreter

4/15/25

Date

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to translate from Spanish to Mixteco Bajo, that I orally translated the Declaration of [REDACTED] to the declarant from Spanish to Mixteco Bajo, and that my translation was true and correct to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interpreter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CERTIFICADO DE TRADUCCION**

Yo, Francisco Panfilo, por lo presente certifico bajo pena de perjurio que estoy calificado para traducir del español a mixteco bajo, que traduje oralmente la Declaración de [REDACTED] del español a mixteco bajo al declarante y que mi traducción fue verdadera y correcta en la medida de mis habilidades.

Francisco PL  
Firma del Interprete

4-21-2025  
Fecha

**EXHIBIT K, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-5**

**DECLARATION OF CHIRLA MEMBER  
“LUISA”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

**DECLARATION OF** [REDACTED]

Upon my personal knowledge, I hereby declare:

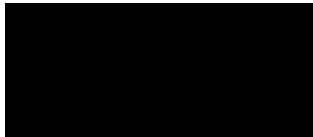
1. My name is [REDACTED]. I am a 49-year-old domestic worker.
2. I have been in the U.S. for nearly 20 years, when I entered by crossing the Southern Border.
3. My husband and I are CHIRLA members. He has a temporary immigration status but I am not eligible. Together we have 2 U.S. citizen children, 11 and 15 years old.
4. I am a very active CHIRLA member and a part of the Domestic Workers organizing group. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I was an essential worker who volunteered to clean classrooms in my own children's schools, focusing on those for the youngest age groups.
5. I have also worked with CHIRLA to fight for better working conditions for domestic workers with the Domestic Workers Alliance. In particular, I try to help indigenous

domestic workers because they are the most vulnerable. I have gotten training on preserving rare languages and assisting as an interpreter.

6. I have also advocated for better housing and helping to get out the vote in Los Angeles. On numerous occasions, I have participated in pro-immigrant protests, and I have also attended the Women's March.
7. I am fearful of the registration process, and that I will be specifically targeted for enforcement because of my advocacy on behalf of undocumented workers.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on April 17 , 2025.



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**CERTIFICATE OF INTERPRETATION**

I, Adam Reese, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to interpret from English to Spanish, that I read this Declaration to the declarant [REDACTED] in Spanish, and that my interpretation was true and correct to the best of my ability.

Adam Reese  
Signature of Interpreter

4/18/25  
Date



**EXHIBIT L, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-6**

**DECLARATION OF CHIRLA MEMBER  
“URSELA”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

**DECLARATION OF** [REDACTED]

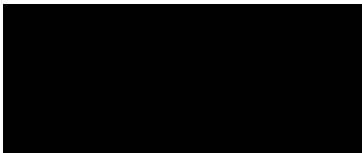
Upon my personal knowledge, I hereby declare:

1. My name is [REDACTED]. I am 18 years old.
2. I am originally from El Salvador.
3. I came to the United States in 2023 when I was 17 to escape abuse by my father. My mother and I fled together but got separated during our journey. After making inquiries with the Salvadoran Consulate, I learned that my mother is officially listed as a missing person in Mexico.
4. I have applied for asylum based on my fear of return to El Salvador. I have not yet had biometrics or received a work permit. I am not in removal proceedings.
5. I am also applying for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status based on my parental circumstances.

6. I am a member of CHIRLA. Being a part of CHIRLA has given me a sense of safety and community in this country.
7. I recently learned from CHIRLA staff that I will be required to register online with the government. I am confused why I need to complete this process when I am already submitting immigration applications. The government already has my information.
8. I worry that by registering the government could try to deport me back to El Salvador before my other applications get approved, which I have been told can take years. I know that the government wants to use the registration process to deport people, and that the government has already deported people even though they have pending asylum applications.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on April 17, 2025.

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the declarant.

**EXHIBIT M, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-7**

**DECLARATION OF CHIRLA MEMBER  
“TIANA”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

DECLARATION OF [REDACTED]

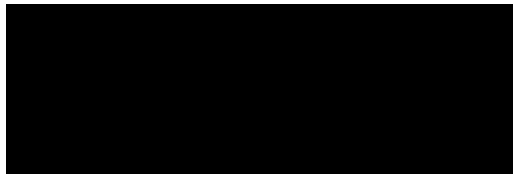
Upon my personal knowledge, I hereby declare:

1. My name is [REDACTED]. I am forty-two years old and a member of CHIRLA.
2. I came to the United States from Mexico with my family when I was 15 years old.
3. As a teenager, I worked as a seamstress to support the family. I was unable to complete my education.
4. Later I married a man who was a U.S. citizen. He treated me very badly and abused me. He also never helped me adjust my immigration status.
5. I am now in the in the process of self-petitioning for protection under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). I have not yet filed the application or undergone biometrics.

6. I am also a single parent of a U.S. citizen son who is in second grade. He means everything to me. I have worked hard to support him and am proud to have finally earned my G.E.D.
7. I worked in a restaurant that burned down during the recent Los Angeles wildfires, but with the help of one of my former colleagues I have taken the first step to fulfilling a life-long dream of opening my own restaurant. I plan to serve a fusion of Oaxacan and American cuisine.
8. I understand that I would be required to register with a new system the government is saying will help deport people. I am terrified that registering could make me a target even though I am applying for legal status. My greatest fear is being separated from my son.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on April 17, 2025.

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**EXHIBIT N, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-8**

**DECLARATION OF MRNY MEMBER  
“GUEVELIA”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

DECLARATION OF [REDACTED]

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

1. My name is [REDACTED]. I would like to be known as “Guvelia.” I am using a pseudonym because I fear for my safety should the Government decide to retaliate against me for participating in a lawsuit against them.
2. I entered the United States by crossing the border without inspection in or around 2003.
3. I have continuously lived in the United States since that time.
4. I live in New York City.
5. I have five children. Two are U.S. citizens, and one is a Lawful Permanent Resident. I have ten U.S. citizen grandchildren, and one U.S. citizen great-grandchild.
6. I struggle to make ends meet. I work as a nanny and collect recycling on the street to earn
7. extra money.
8. I have been a member of Make the Road New York since 2011. In the time since, I have participated in protests and political actions. I am a member of Make the Road



New York's BASTA and CRIPP committees and regularly attend their meetings. I have participated in press conferences in New York City, advocated before state lawmakers Albany, and marched in Washington, D.C., to demand fair treatment for the immigrant community.

8. I have heard stories of people being deported for making statements that Trump disagrees with, or for being vocal for immigrant justice. I fear being surveilled or targeted by immigration authorities for participating in political activities.
9. I filed Form I-918 with USCIS to apply for U Nonimmigrant Status in December, 2024. I listed a safe address in that application, not my home address. I recently provided biometrics as part of the U visa process but I still do not have an employment authorization.
10. I am eligible for U Nonimmigrant Status because I and two of my children were assaulted by a group of young men with sticks, rods, and fists outside of our apartment building in Brooklyn, NY and I assisted in the arrest and prosecution of one of the assailants.
11. I have not yet registered, and I have no proof of registration.
12. I fear being stopped on the street and having no proof of registration to show. I fear that in that case, I will be separated from my children, my grandchildren, and my great-grandchild and be detained.
13. On the other hand, I have a lot of fears related to registering also. I fear that by registering on form G-325R, I am exposing myself and my family to immigration enforcement. I am particularly concerned that my previous advocacy activity with Make the Road New York makes me a target for enforcement.

14. I fear that, after registering on form G-325R, I or my family will be surveilled by immigration enforcement authorities. I did not have to share my home address on my U visa application and the thought of my address being known is frightening, especially since I was a crime victim and helped law enforcement.
15. I fear that by registering on form G-325R, I am undercutting my application for U Nonimmigrant Status because by registering, I am risking removal before my application can be adjudicated.
16. I fear that by registering on form G-325R, I am exposing myself to criminal liability for not registering before. I worry that I will be subject to criminal prosecution and a fine or incarceration if I register now. I am concerned that I will self-incriminate by registering now.

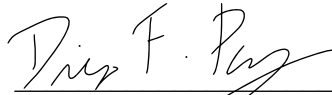
I, [REDACTED] do swear under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed on this 23rd day of April, 2025.

  
[REDACTED]

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Diego Fernández-Pagés, certify that I am fully bilingual in English and Spanish. I translated the above declaration to [REDACTED] to Spanish, and she signed the English version on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.



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Diego Fernández-Pagés

**EXHIBIT O, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-9**

**DECLARATION OF CASA MEMBER “YL”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

**DECLARATION OF** [REDACTED]

I, [REDACTED] upon my personal knowledge, hereby submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and declare as follows:

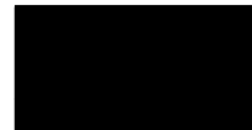
1. I am more than 18 years of age and competent to testify, upon personal knowledge, to the facts set forth herein.
2. I am a CASA member originally from Mexico who currently resides in Georgia. I entered the U.S. in 2016 without inspection and did not have any contact with immigration authorities. I have never had a case in immigration court or applied for immigration relief.
3. I have been active with CASA for the last two years, engaging in my local organizing committee, and participating in public demonstrations related to a variety of issues, including housing and climate justice. In support of these issues, I have engaged in lobbying activity with CASA at both the state and national level.

4. Outside of CASA, I have engaged in political activity, including engaging voters to support candidates who champion immigrant communities, even though I cannot vote myself.
5. I am the mother of a 5-year-old son, who has a speech impediment and needs occupational and speech therapy.
6. The IFR has caused me to become more afraid to speak out because I fear that it could expose me and my son to targeting by the federal government.
7. With respect to the actual registration process, I don't feel like I would be able to complete it because I am not very good with technology, and wouldn't feel comfortable creating an account and completing the form online – especially because I have limited English proficiency, and the form is only available in English.
8. My biggest fear is that I will be separated from my young son, who is a U.S. citizen, and who has never been cared for by anyone else. That fear keeps me up at night. I am also afraid that my partner, who is the sole wage earner in our family, could be detained and deported as well, depriving us of our only income.
9. I have been exposed to discrimination in the U.S. because of my inability to speak English, including in the school system when I enrolled my child in pre-Kindergarten and when I reported a situation of bullying at school. The principal promised to help resolve the situation, but it only got worse. My son would have night terrors and lost his appetite because of the bullying. When I visited my son's classroom, I saw him being bullied without teachers intervening. In contrast, parents who were able to speak English got the support they needed.

10. With CASA, I am fighting for a just immigration system that will allow me and my family to live in peace, free from the fear that this IFR invokes. I see the deep concern about the IFR and anti-immigrant environment generally from the other parents at my child's school and want to continue fighting for immigration reform so that they can speak out and create a better education system for all the children where I live. Children deserve to have a dignified education, not to live in fear.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

EXECUTED: April 23, 2025

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the declarant.

### CERTIFICATE OF INTERPRETATION

I, Lydia Walther-Rodriguez, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to interpret from English to Spanish, that I read this Declaration to the declarant in Spanish, and that my interpretation was true and correct to the best of my ability.

DocuSigned by:  
  
F752F17F5B4F437...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interpreter

4/23/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**EXHIBIT P, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-10**

**DECLARATION OF CASA MEMBER “ME”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

**DECLARATION OF** [REDACTED]

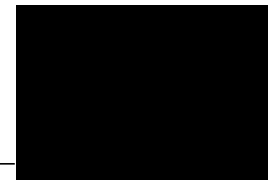
I, [REDACTED], upon my personal knowledge, hereby submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and declare as follows:

1. I am more than 18 years of age and competent to testify, upon personal knowledge, to the facts set forth herein.
2. I am a CASA member originally from Guatemala who currently resides in Pennsylvania. I entered the U.S. without inspection and without contact with immigration authorities in 2004. I have never been placed in removal proceedings or applied for any immigration benefit in the United States.
3. I currently work as a carpenter and have four children, aged 1, 8, 15 and 18, all of whom are United States citizens. I proudly pay my taxes every year and abide by all the laws of this country.

4. I have been active with CASA since 2023 and currently sit on CASA's member leadership council, helping to decide on the priorities for CASA in Pennsylvania and across the organization.
5. During my time as a CASA member I have participated in public demonstrations, including a rally for citizenship in Washington D.C.
6. Outside of CASA, I have engaged in political activity to support my preferred candidates, hoping to elect leaders who will improve the lives of immigrant communities and fight for just immigration reform, though I cannot vote myself.
7. I am afraid to register, because it could expose me and my family, including my wife, who is also undocumented, to the risk of detention and deportation. This would tear our family apart and leave my children, including our one-year-old, without any support.
8. Even if I tried to register, though, I would struggle to complete the process due to my limited English proficiency and lack of technical expertise.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

EXECUTED: April 23, 2025



### **CERTIFICATE OF INTERPRETATION**

I, Lydia Walther-Rodriguez, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to interpret from English to Spanish, that I read this Declaration to the declarant in Spanish, and that my interpretation was true and correct to the best of my ability.

DocuSigned by:  
  
F752F77F5D1F437...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interpreter

4/23/25  
Date

## **EXHIBIT Q, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-11**

### **DECLARATION OF CASA MEMBER “JC”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

**DECLARATION OF** [REDACTED]

I, [REDACTED] upon my personal knowledge, hereby submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and declare as follows:

1. I am more than 18 years of age and competent to testify, upon personal knowledge, to the facts set forth herein.
2. I am a CASA member originally from El Salvador and currently residing in Virginia. I entered the U.S. without inspection and without contact with immigration authorities in 2014. I have never been placed in removal proceedings or applied for any immigration benefit in the U.S.
3. I work for a construction company, doing plumbing and electrical work. My elderly father who still lives in El Salvador depends on me for economic support, and if I were unable to work or was deported back to El Salvador my father would not be able to support himself. Recently, my father needed surgery, from which he is still recovering.

I helped pay for the surgery and without the money I send home my father would not have been able to get the care he needs.

4. I have been an outspoken advocate with CASA for more than eight years, exercising my First Amendment rights to call for immigration reform and other causes at the state and national level. I have engaged with CASA's organizing committees throughout my time with CASA, and I have been an outspoken public activist, participating in lobbying elected officials, engaging in marches and rallies, as well as speaking to the media about issues that are important to me personally and to CASA's membership generally.
5. I believe that there is strength in unity, and that it is vital for people to feel free to come together to fight against injustice. I think the community must be empowered with information and education about their rights, while building hope for a better future together.
6. The IFR makes me afraid to speak out publicly, because my political views and the policy positions I believe in are not aligned with the current administration. If I comply with the regulation and register, I'm afraid that I could be targeted and persecuted for my activism, while if I don't not comply with the requirement I could be subjected to criminal penalties.
7. Additionally, I don't trust the registration process online, because I am afraid of government surveillance. I am very careful with how I interact with the internet on my phone and other devices. I don't want them to be able to access my sensitive and private information.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

EXECUTED: April 23, 2025

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### CERTIFICATE OF INTERPRETATION

I, Lydia Walther-Rodriguez, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to interpret from English to Spanish, that I read this Declaration to the declarant in Spanish, and that my interpretation was true and correct to the best of my ability.

DocuSigned by:  
  
F752F77F5D1F437...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interpreter

4/23/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **EXHIBIT R, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-12**

### **DECLARATION OF CASA MEMBER “ALDC”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

**DECLARATION OF** [REDACTED]

I, [REDACTED], upon my personal knowledge, hereby submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and declare as follows:

1. I am more than 18 years of age and competent to testify, upon personal knowledge, to the facts set forth herein.
2. I am a CASA member originally from Honduras currently residing in Virginia with my husband. I entered the United States without inspection and without contact with immigration authorities in 2006. I have never been placed in removal proceedings or applied for any immigration relief in the United States. My husband also does not have lawful immigration status and would be required to register under the IFR.
3. We have three United States citizen children, ages 12, 14 and 16. Our youngest contracted meningitis that requires constant medication with antibiotics and regular doctors' visits to ensure that the infection is under control. The meningitis is in his brain and he required surgery on it right after he was born, when he was only four months old.

4. I have been an active leader with CASA over the last three years, speaking out about issues that are important to me through CASA's organizing committees and through participation in public actions like marches and rallies. I decided to become a leader with CASA because I saw the need to take action to build community power and solidarity.
5. The IFR makes me afraid to speak out because I feel like I might be targeted by the government for my participation.
6. I am also afraid to register with the government because I believe it will lead to my detention and potential deportation. My children need me here, and if we were separated they would have no one to take care of them other than my husband, who is also at risk of deportation. Our youngest son would not be able to get the medical care and support he needs in Honduras and our other children would be at risk of being victimized by gangs or other bad actors – whether they were here, in the United States without me or if they were forced to go with me to Honduras.
7. Additionally, I don't even know how I would complete the registration requirement, since I don't read or understand English well and am not good with computers. I wouldn't feel able to complete the online registration form.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed: April 23, 2025



### CERTIFICATE OF INTERPRETATION

I, Lydia Walther-Rodriguez, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to interpret from English to Spanish, that I read this Declaration to the declarant in Spanish, and that my interpretation was true and correct to the best of my ability.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interpreter

4/23/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**EXHIBIT S, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-13**

**DECLARATION OF CASA MEMBER “NC”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

**DECLARATION OF** [REDACTED]

I, [REDACTED], upon my personal knowledge, hereby submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and declare as follows:

1. I am more than 18 years of age and competent to testify, upon personal knowledge, to the facts set forth herein.
2. I am a CASA member originally from El Salvador who currently resides in Maryland with my two adult children. I entered the United States without inspection in 2004 and have resided in this country since then. I have never had contact with immigration officials, had a case in immigration court, or applied for any immigration benefit in the United States.
3. I work as a cleaner and support my elderly mother who lives in El Salvador. My mother does not work and depends on the money I send to live.
4. I have been a vocal activist with CASA, giving testimony before elected officials on issues that are important to me. Since 2021 I have participated in numerous public

demonstrations with CASA, in support of causes like tenant rights, increased access to healthcare for Marylanders, and expanded immigration protections for people across the country.

5. I have spoken publicly at many of these events, including testifying and lobbying in front of elected officials of the local, state and national government, as well as giving interviews to the media.
6. The IFR has caused me a lot of fear and uncertainty about exercising my right to speak out and caused me to question whether I should participate in the activities I have in the past, because I don't not have any protection if the government decides to target me for my speech.
7. More broadly, the IFR has impacted my whole life. I feel that I am being offered a terrible choice, between putting myself and my family at risk by giving my information to immigration officials or being criminalized for failing to comply with the registration requirement.
8. Being deported would be a disaster for me because I would have to abandon the life that I have built here and start over in El Salvador. I don't feel like I have a future there and if I were forced to return, I could not come back to the U.S. where my life is. I'm most worried, though, about my family, who would lose all the financial support I provide.
9. I run a small business and always pay my taxes, contributing to my community in whatever way I can. The income I earn from that business, in addition to supporting my immediate family and my elderly mother, also helps to pay for medicine for my brother, who is very sick. He would not be able to afford that medicine if I could not provide for him.



10. Even if I tried to register, however, I don't think I would be able to do so because I wouldn't be able to navigate the process to set up an account and fill out the registration form online. I have very limited English proficiency and wouldn't be able to read or understand the questions on the form, forcing me to complete and sign something I didn't understand.

11. After living in the U.S. for more than 20 years, I believe that rather than forcing people like me to fill out a registration form, the government should create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants living in this country and finally enact immigration reform that respects the dignity and humanity of all people.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: April 23, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

### CERTIFICATE OF INTERPRETATION

I, Lydia Walther-Rodriguez, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to interpret from English to Spanish, that I read this Declaration to the declarant in Spanish, and that my interpretation was true and correct to the best of my ability.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interpreter

4/23/25  
Date

**EXHIBIT T, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-14**

**DECLARATION OF CASA MEMBER “PH”**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

**DECLARATION OF** [REDACTED]

I, [REDACTED], upon my personal knowledge, hereby submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and declare as follows:

1. I am more than 18 years of age and competent to testify, upon personal knowledge, to the facts set forth herein.
2. I am a CASA member originally from Mexico who now resides in Maryland, with my partner and two children. I entered the United States without inspection and without contact with immigration officials in 2004. Both of my children are U.S. citizens, but my wife is also undocumented and at risk of deportation. I have never appeared before an immigration court in the United States or applied for any immigration benefit.
3. I work in a church two days a week doing maintenance and the other three days I work at a mechanic's shop. I have been engaged with CASA for two decades and have participated in a number of CASA campaigns, including the successful fight to get access to drivers' licenses for immigrants in Maryland.

4. I routinely participate in other public demonstrations with CASA, proudly joining regardless of conditions, including turning out in the rain and snow to lift up my voice for immigrant communities. I have given numerous interviews to the media over the course of my activism with CASA.
5. Due to the IFR, however, I am afraid to speak out because I fear that I will be targeted by the government.
6. Navigating the process to register would be incredibly difficult for me, because I have limited English proficiency. I don't think I could create an online account, let alone fill out the registration form.
7. In addition, I am afraid to register because I believe it could lead to my detention and deportation by immigration officials, with my previous outspoken activism and support of immigrant rights issues a cause for selective prosecution. If I were detained and eventually removed from the U.S. it would leave my children without a father or hope for the future.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

EXECUTED: April 23, 2025

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### CERTIFICATE OF INTERPRETATION

I, Lydia Walther-Rodriguez, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I am qualified to interpret from English to Spanish, that I read this Declaration to the declarant in Spanish, and that my interpretation was true and correct to the best of my ability.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interpreter

4/23/25  
Date

**EXHIBIT T, DIST. CT ECF NO. 42-15**

**DECLARATION OF MILAGROS CISNEROS**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, *et al.*

*Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-CV943

**DECLARATION OF MILAGROS CISNEROS**

I, Milagros Cisneros, upon my personal knowledge, hereby submit this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and declare as follows:

1. I am more than 18 years of age and competent to testify, upon personal knowledge, to the facts set forth herein.
2. I am a Second Level Supervisory Assistant Federal Public Defender at the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Arizona in Phoenix, AZ. I have worked for over 20 years as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in Phoenix, Arizona, representing indigent clients in federal criminal cases.
3. I currently represent an individual charged with Willful Failure to Register under 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a). This week, I also represented another individual charged under 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a). These are the first charges I have ever encountered under this statute in my two-decade career as a Federal Defender.
4. One of the defendants was charged under 8 U.S.C. § 1306(a) on April 18, 2025. But he had been unable to register since the effective date of the Interim Final Rule because he was

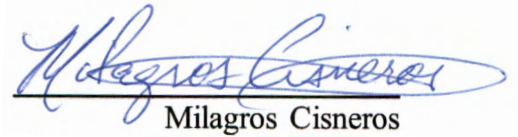


being held in Maricopa County custody following his arrest and detention for unrelated charges from April 7, 2025 to April 17, 2025.

5. In light of the federal government's publicized intention to prioritize prosecutions for willful failure to register, I anticipate additional charges under § 1306(a) in my district of practice.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: April 24, 2025  
Phoenix, Arizona



Milagros Cisneros