

No. 20-6552

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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IGNACIO ARREOLA-MENDOZA, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI  
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES

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Petitioner contends (Pet. 14-24) that his prior conviction for aggravated assault, in violation of Tex. Penal Code § 22.02(a)(2) (West 2014),<sup>1</sup> does not qualify as an aggravated felony under 8 U.S.C. 1326(b)(2), on the theory that an offense that can be committed with a mens rea of recklessness does not include as an element the “use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another” under 8 U.S.C. 16(a). See 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(43)(F) (defining “aggravated

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<sup>1</sup> Although the court of appeals described the conviction as a conviction for aggravated assault under Tex. Penal Code § 22.02(a)(1), see Pet. App. 1, the record shows that the conviction fell under Tex. Penal Code § 22.02(a)(2), see C.A. R.E. 137.

felony” for purposes of Section 1326(b)(2) to include any “crime of violence” as defined in Section 16(a)). This Court has granted review in Borden v. United States, No. 19-5410 (argued Nov. 3, 2020), to address whether crimes that can be committed with a mens rea of recklessness can satisfy the definition of a “violent felony” under a similarly worded provision of the Armed Career Criminal Act of 1984, 18 U.S.C. 924(e)(2)(B)(i). The Court’s resolution of that question could potentially affect the court of appeals’ disposition of this case. The petition for a writ of certiorari should therefore be held pending the decision in Borden and then disposed of as appropriate in light of that decision.<sup>2</sup>

Respectfully submitted.

ELIZABETH B. PRELOGAR  
Acting Solicitor General

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<sup>2</sup> The government waives any further response to the petition for a writ of certiorari unless this Court requests otherwise.