

No. 25-365

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**In the  
Supreme Court of the United States**

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DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES, ET AL., *Petitioners*,

v.

BARBARA, ET AL., *Respondents*.

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On Writ of Certiorari Before  
Judgment to the United States  
Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

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**BRIEF *AMICI CURIAE* OF  
19 LABOR ORGANIZATIONS  
IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENTS**

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## **INTEREST OF AMICI CURIAE<sup>1</sup>**

*Amici curiae* are labor organizations whose members, families, and communities they serve would be impacted by this case.

The **Service Employees International Union (“SEIU”)** is a labor organization of approximately two million working people united across the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. SEIU’s members include foreign-born U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and immigrants authorized to work in the United States. Many of SEIU’s members have mixed-status families.

The **American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations (“AFL-CIO”)** is a federation of 64 labor unions with a membership of approximately 15 million working people employed in every sector of this country. The AFL-CIO proudly defends immigrants’ rights and counts immigrants and children of immigrants among its ranks.

**Actors’ Equity Association (“Equity”)** represents over 51,000 theatrical actors and stage managers. Equity’s membership has included American cultural giants who have benefitted from birthright citizenship, including Kennedy Center honorees Harry Belafonte, Gene Kelly, and Cicely Tyson. Equity joins this litigation to protect constitutional rights and ensure the vibrancy of American Theatre.

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<sup>1</sup> No counsel of any party to this proceeding authored any part of this brief. No party or party’s counsel, or person other than *amici*, contributed money to the preparation or submission of this brief.

The **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (“AFSCME”)** is a union of 1.4 million public service workers who serve their communities every day. AFSCME is participating in this case to support those members and their families who, having been born in the United States, are entitled to the privileges, protections, and responsibilities of citizenship.

The **American Federation of Teachers (“AFT”)** represents 1.8 million members employed in K-12, higher education, public employment, and healthcare. AFT includes members born in the United States to undocumented parents and members who teach American students born to undocumented parents. AFT joins this case to support their U.S. citizenship rights.

**Communications Workers of America (“CWA”)** represents workers in the communications and information industries, the news media, broadcast and cable television, public service, higher education, health care, manufacturing, video games, air travel, and high tech. CWA advocates for its members on workplace issues, including participation in litigation as a party.

The **International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (“IFPTE”)** represents over 90,000 private sector and local, state, and federal government employees in the United States and Canada working in engineering, scientific, legal, technical, policy, and administrative occupations. IFPTE’s membership includes naturalized citizens, permanent residents, and work-authorized immigrants.

The **International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (“BAC”)** represents 70,000 skilled craftworkers across the United States and Canada, including bricklayers, stone and marble masons, cement masons, plasterers, tilers, terrazzo and mosaic workers, and pointers/cleaners/caulkers. BAC’s membership includes foreign-born U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and immigrants with work authorization.

The **International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (“IUPAT”)** represents 140,000 workers in the finishing trades across North America. Founded by immigrants and children of immigrants striving to improve their lives as they built this country, IUPAT today includes first- and second-generation citizens who carry that legacy forward.

The **International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (“UAW”)** is one of the largest and most diverse unions in North America, with nearly 1,000,000 active and retired members. Since its founding in 1935, the UAW’s membership has included immigrants and U.S. citizens born to immigrant parents.

The **Laborers’ International Union of North America (“LIUNA”)** is a union of over 530,000 workers, including immigrants and the children of immigrants, who build and serve this country every day. LIUNA was founded in 1903 by immigrant workers who believed that every worker that labors with dignity deserves fair treatment, safe conditions, and a voice on the job. That promise still guides LIUNA today.

The **National Education Association (“NEA”)** is the nation’s oldest and largest union, representing approximately three million members of diverse backgrounds who work in public schools and higher-education institutions. NEA is committed to securing the worth and dignity of all people, regardless of immigration status, through education.

**National Nurses United (“NNU”)** is the largest union and professional association for Registered Nurses in the United States. NNU represents approximately 245,000 Registered Nurses in hospitals and clinics throughout the United States. NNU’s members include U.S. citizens, both born and naturalized, and others authorized to work in the United States.

The **Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO (“OPEIU”)** represents approximately 100,000 professional and non-professional workers throughout the United States and Canada employed in a variety of fields in the private and public sector, including tech companies, credit unions, hospitals, insurance agencies, colleges and universities, hotels, and not-for-profit organizations.

The **Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (“RWDSU”)** represents workers across a range of essential industries from retail to food processing to manufacturing. RWDSU’s membership includes immigrants and foreign-born U.S. citizens. RWDSU joins this case to protect the rights of workers and preserve the 14th Amendment’s guarantee of birthright citizenship.

**UNITE HERE** is a labor union that represents over 270,000 workers in the hospitality industry. Hospitality industry jobs attract new immigrants as they arrive and seek work opportunities in the United States. Accordingly, UNITE HERE's membership includes many immigrants who are temporarily authorized to work in the United States.

The **United Farm Workers of America ("UFW")** represents thousands of migrant and seasonal farmworkers nationwide. Founded in 1962, UFW advocates for fair wages, working conditions, and equality through bargaining, education, legislation, and litigation. UFW's members include foreign-born U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and work-authorized immigrants, including members with mixed-status families.

The **United Food and Commercial Workers International Union ("UFCW")** is a labor organization which represents over a million members, including children of immigrants born in the United States. UFCW's members work primarily in the retail food, meatpacking, and food processing industries and play a vital role in feeding American families.

The **Writers Guild of America East ("WGAE")** is a union of more than 7,500 writers and other creative professionals working in film, television, radio, and online media. WGAE members entertain and inform audiences throughout the world by creating stories reflecting their diverse backgrounds and perspectives, including those of first-generation Americans.

## **INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT**

For more than 150 years, the Fourteenth Amendment has guaranteed that a child’s birth in the United States confers the privilege of U.S. citizenship regardless of the immigration status of the parents. That hallmark of freedom and opportunity assures that every child born on U.S. soil is entitled to participate equally in all aspects of public and private life. The guarantee of citizenship has opened the doors of opportunity for millions, paid lasting dividends for our country, and allowed these citizens to contribute as doctors, educators, in-home health aides, family child-care providers, and other workers who are essential to our communities and our national economy.

Birthright citizenship is enshrined in the Constitution, codified in federal law,<sup>2</sup> and has been repeatedly affirmed by this Court.<sup>3</sup> Nonetheless, the President has sought unilaterally to nullify the basis for citizenship by executive decree. On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order No. 14160, Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship (“Order”), which declares that children born in the United States are not U.S. citizens if, at the time of birth, their mother is either “unlawfully present in the United States” or present “lawful[ly] but temporar[il]y,” and their father is not a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.

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<sup>2</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1401(a).

<sup>3</sup> *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, 169 U.S. 649, 693 (1898).

*Amici* submit this brief to illustrate through the experience of our union members the devastating consequences that denying birthright citizenship would have on children, their families, communities, workplaces, and the Nation.

## **ARGUMENT**

President Trump’s Order rescinding birthright citizenship would deprive this country of the valuable contributions that the children of immigrants make, create structural disruptions in our society, and impose grave harms on families and our Nation for generations to come.

### **I. Birthright Citizenship Enables U.S.-Born Children to Participate as Full Members of Their Communities and This Country.**

“Birthright citizenship is one of the most powerful mechanisms of formal political and civic inclusion in the United States.”<sup>4</sup> Citizenship carries rights that enable full participation in public and private life, including the right to vote in federal elections, to run for and be appointed to certain high government offices, and to serve on federal juries.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *The Integration of Immigrants into American Society* 10 (2015), <https://www.nationalacademies.org/read/21746>.

<sup>5</sup> *See, e.g.*, U.S. Const. art. I, §§ 2-3 (requiring U.S. citizenship to serve in Congress); U.S. Const. art. II, § 1 (requiring U.S. citizenship to be President); 20 U.S.C. § 1865 (requiring U.S. citizenship for federal jury service).

Citizenship leads to better employment, higher earnings, and advanced occupational positions.<sup>6</sup> Birthright citizenship and the attendant access to the formal labor market dramatically increase job opportunities, especially in higher-paying careers.<sup>7</sup> And citizenship is a prerequisite for virtually all federal jobs.<sup>8</sup>

Birthright citizenship also opens doors for first-generation Americans seeking higher education, professional careers, and improved standards of living. U.S. citizens are eligible for student financial aid, including grants, loans, and work study opportunities.<sup>9</sup> U.S. citizenship and a U.S. passport facilitate travel outside the United States and makes possible the

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<sup>6</sup> See generally Thomas Liebig & Friederike Von Haaren, in *Citizenship and the Socio-economic Integration of Immigrants and their Children: An Overview Across European Union and OECD Countries*, in Org. for Econ. Coop. & Dev. 23 (2011), [https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/naturalisation-a-passport-for-the-better-integration-of-immigrants\\_9789264099104-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/naturalisation-a-passport-for-the-better-integration-of-immigrants_9789264099104-en.html); Jens Hainmueller et al., *The Effect of Citizenship on the Long-Term Earnings of Marginalized Immigrants: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Switzerland*, *Sci. Advances* (Dec. 4, 2019), <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.aay1610>.

<sup>7</sup> See Drishti Pillai & Samantha Artiga, *Employment Among Immigrants and Implications for Health and Health Care*, Kaiser Fam. Found. (June 12, 2023), <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/employment-among-immigrants-and-implications-for-health-and-health-care/> (reporting that roughly one in three noncitizen workers was low-income compared with 15% of U.S.-born workers).

<sup>8</sup> 5 C.F.R. § 7.3; *Employment of Non-Citizens*, USAJOBS Help Center, <https://help.usajobs.gov/working-in-government/non-citizens> (last visited Feb. 13, 2026).

<sup>9</sup> 20 U.S.C. § 1091(a)(5).

business and educational opportunities that require travel abroad.

Birthright citizenship allows immigrant families to integrate into American society, to become part of the fabric of America, and to contribute to the growth and dynamism of the U.S. economy. Immigrants and their U.S.-born children – first-generation U.S. citizens – have been the driver of growth in the American labor force over the past 20 years.<sup>10</sup>

## **II. The Elimination of Birthright Citizenship Would Transform Promising Future Generations into a Permanent Underclass.**

The denial of citizenship is a deprivation of “property and life and all that makes life worth living.”<sup>11</sup> Under the Order, countless children born on U.S. soil would be rendered undocumented and subject to removal from the United States; an untold number would become effectively stateless. U.S.-born children would be forced to live at “constant risk of exploitation or deportation to a country they have never known.”<sup>12</sup> The Order would create a permanent underclass of unauthorized and potentially stateless individuals,

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<sup>10</sup> See Jeanne Batalova et al., *How Immigrants and Their U.S.-Born Children Fit into the Future U.S. Labor Market*, Migration Pol’y Inst. (Apr. 2024), [https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi\\_immigrant-origin-adults-labor-market-2024\\_final.pdf](https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi_immigrant-origin-adults-labor-market-2024_final.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> *Ng Fung Ho v. White*, 259 U.S. 276, 284 (1922).

<sup>12</sup> Wendy Cervantes, *Birthright Citizenship: A Fundamental Right for America’s Children*, Ctr. for the Child. of Immigrants (Sept. 2015), <https://firstfocus.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Birthright-Citizenship-A-Fundamental-Right-for-Americas-Children.pdf>.

perpetuating inequality, legal disabilities, and social and economic disadvantages across successive generations.<sup>13</sup>

Children deprived of nationality are denied a sense of belonging, experience trauma, and suffer other negative psychological harms.<sup>14</sup> The need to belong is one of the most fundamental human drives, the loss of which results in negative health outcomes.<sup>15</sup>

Germany's experience denying citizenship because of parental status to generations of persons born on German soil caused that country to recognize the destructive impact of such a legal regime.<sup>16</sup> This Order would, at a minimum, replicate those harms. It would

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<sup>13</sup> See generally Michael Fix, *Repealing Birthright Citizenship: The Unintended Consequences*, Migration Pol'y Inst. (Aug. 2015), <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/repealing-birth-right-citizenship-unintended-consequences>.

<sup>14</sup> See Kipling D. Williams & Andrew Hales, *Statelessness as Social Ostracism: A Psychologist's Perspective*, in Inst. on Statelessness & Inclusion, *The World's Stateless: Deprivation of Nationality* (Mar. 2020), [https://files.institutesi.org/WSR20\\_Williams\\_Hales.pdf](https://files.institutesi.org/WSR20_Williams_Hales.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> See generally *The Belonging Barometer: The State of Belonging in America (Revised Edition)*, Am. Immigr. Council (2024), <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/the-belonging-barometer>; Robert J. Taormina & Jennifer H. Gao, *Maslow and the Motivation Hierarchy: Measuring Satisfaction of the Needs*, 126 Am. J. of Psych. 155 (2013), <https://doi.org/10.5406/amerjpsyc.126.2.0155>.

<sup>16</sup> See Ciro Avitabile et al., *Citizenship, Fertility, and Parental Investments*, 6 Am. Econ. J.: Applied Econ. 35 (2014), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1257/app.6.4.35>; Martin Weinmann, *Modernisation of German Citizenship: Completing the Paradigm Shift of 2000*, Glob. Citizenship Observatory (Feb. 6, 2024), <https://globalcit.eu/modernisation-of-german-citizenship-completing-the-paradigm-shift-of-2000/>.

undercut American values and diminish the integration and social cohesion that birthright citizenship long has promoted.<sup>17</sup>

Enforcement of the Order would ripple across the entire society and create burdens “at the federal, state, and local level [that] makes all claims to citizenship more precarious – regardless of who the claimant’s parents are.”<sup>18</sup> The Order would generate uncertainty, instability, and a vast bureaucracy for determining citizenship. Highly skilled workers who contribute to our economy would be deterred from pursuing training or employment opportunities in the United States, given the legitimate fear that their U.S.-born children will be thrown into this maelstrom of instability. And it will impose new administrative burdens on employers, impact the workforce across all sectors – including those that *amici’s* members enter – and create hurdles and barriers for *all* workers.

The experiences of *amici’s* members – including many who are devoted to working in under-served communities – demonstrate that ending birthright citizenship will turn valuable contributors into a permanent multi-generational underclass. Successive generations of children born in the United States will be stripped of U.S. citizenship and be excluded from public life, the formal economy, and the ability to live fully independent, productive lives.

The following examples of members’ hard-working, civic-minded children who are citizens by U.S. birth

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<sup>17</sup> See Fix, *supra* note 13.

<sup>18</sup> See Jacob Hamburger, *The Consequences of Ending Birthright Citizenship*, 103 Wash. U.L. Rev. 209, 242 (2025).

illustrate the harm the Order would inflict. They include U.S.-born children who serve their communities in many public- and private-sector roles, such as doctors, educators, in-home health aides, family childcare providers, and researchers. Without birthright citizenship, many would be unable to pursue the training, credentials, or employment necessary for this work. Depriving future generations of birthright citizenship would not only harm these individuals and their families but would also deprive the country of medical professionals, caregivers, educators, and others who are committed to serving areas of great need.

The lived experiences of *amici's* members illustrate the profound value of birthright citizenship to its recipients, to the communities in which they live, and to our Nation.<sup>19</sup>

**A. Drs. G. and E.: Medical specialists fearing the life their new child will face absent birthright citizenship**

Drs. G. and E. are a married couple whose first child was born in April 2025. They reside in the United States on temporary visas, H-4 and H-1B visas respectively. Both are highly trained and specialized surgeons. Dr. E. is a member of SEIU's Committee of Interns and Residents ("CIR").

The couple met at the University of Illinois at Chicago ("UIC") while working in the same department as research fellows in transplantation surgery. They fell

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<sup>19</sup> The individuals whose stories are reported here have all consented to having their experiences being recounted in this brief. Participants chose to maintain a measure of anonymity by using initials only.

in love and married. Their hope is to establish meaningful careers, raise a family, and contribute to the United States.

Dr. G. pursued a post-graduate medical education at UIC after receiving her medical degree and completing a general surgery residency at universities in Italy. In her residency, she trained in abdominal transplant surgery. During her research fellowship at UIC, Dr. G. conducted several studies and clinical trials in Chicago. Now Dr. G. is engaged in her fellowship in transplantation surgery while caring for her newborn child.

Dr. E. undertook post-graduate training in the United States at UIC's abdominal organ transplantation division. He is a citizen of Russia who trained as a pediatric urology fellow and as a clinical resident in pediatric surgery at universities in Russia. He now works as a resident surgeon at a world-class hospital in New York where he provides specialized medical care to indigent and low-income patients.

Drs. G. and E. hope to live and work in the United States because, in the words of Dr. G, "the United States is the world's leading country in the field of medical innovation and research." They are committed to careers as outstanding transplantation surgeons, serving their patients and their community, and making their permanent home in the United States with their child.

Under President Trump's Order, Drs. G. and E.'s child would not be a U.S. citizen. Their child would be denied the educational and career opportunities that

are only available to U.S. citizens through federal student loans and grants. Because their child would be unable to obtain a social security card, passport, or other forms of U.S. identification, Drs. G. and E. worry that their child would have difficulty registering for school, obtaining medical insurance, and eventually pursuing a career. Drs. G. and E. also believe their child would suffer the loss of self-esteem and a sense of belonging, as well as other psychological traumas. They are concerned about their family's ability to travel internationally and live securely in the United States if their child is denied birthright citizenship.

Drs. G. and E. are devoted to this country, their family, and their profession. Their child will be raised in the United States, and they believe that their child should be able to enjoy the benefits, privileges, and responsibilities of living in the United States as a U.S. citizen.

### **B. F.M.: Public-school counselor helping low-income students access higher education**

F.M., a public-school counselor in Boston, MA, and AFT member, comes from a mixed-status family: her parents are undocumented, while she and her three siblings are U.S.-born citizens.

As a child in Los Angeles, F.M. grew up with her single mother and three siblings. Her mother cared for the children, one of whom struggles with mental illness, by herself, with no extended family nearby. Together, F.M. and her family dealt with various hardships, including multiple experiences of homelessness. She remembers squeezing into the back of her mother's car with her siblings at night.

F.M.'s mother always stressed the importance of education. She believed it was the only viable way for her children to escape poverty and instability. During her senior year of high school, while dealing with a significant decline in her health and the trauma of homelessness, F.M. was determined to attend college, as her mother had wanted. F.M. secured several scholarships, both private and public. She attended the University of California, Los Angeles ("UCLA"), and then Harvard University for her master's degree in education. F.M. received partial funding from federal student aid to attend both programs, which she would not have qualified for had she been undocumented like her mother.

In college, F.M. realized her commitment to supporting low-income families grappling with homelessness or mental health issues – challenges she and her family had faced. Now a public-school counselor, she helps low-income students manage the balance between their academic demands and mental health needs.

Education has been a path to freedom for F.M. allowing her to follow her passion for helping children from low-income and immigrant communities. F.M. is acutely aware that had she not been born in the United States, and thus a U.S. citizen, she would not be able to work assisting students. Had she not been a U.S citizen, she would have faced barriers to accessing higher education and financial aid and pursuing her dream and, in turn, helping others.

### **C. F.: Early childhood educator and family childcare provider supporting working parents**

F. is a 48-year-old family childcare provider and SEIU Local 99 member who lives near Edwards Air Force Base in California. Both of her parents came to the United States from Mexico without authorization and neither had immigration status when F. was born in Los Angeles. If the Order had been in effect then, F. would not have been born an American citizen. Today, F. and her three children are U.S. citizens, and her mother is deceased. Two of F.'s children continue to live with her, and F. provides financial and emotional support for her 70-year-old father.

F.'s first education-related job was as a preschool teacher providing specialized education for developmentally disabled children. In 2003, she established a family childcare business in her home, after attending college and training in childhood development. Currently, she serves several families each day, regularly caring for twelve infants and toddlers with her staff by feeding them, changing diapers, reading to them, playing with them, coordinating activities, supervising staff, providing first aid as necessary, and other needed tasks while their parents are at work.

F. is dedicated to her clients, many of whom are single mothers working multiple jobs to make ends meet. She takes pride in preparing the small children for school by providing a stable, social environment where they can learn foundational skills. Moreover, she expresses care and concern for the parents who depend on her, knowing that some parents would lose their jobs or housing and be forced to rely on public

benefits if they could not access the services F. provides.

Given those experiences and others, F. is particularly aware of how profoundly different her life would have been had she not been born a U.S. citizen. She would have been unable to obtain the education and training necessary to become a qualified preschool teacher. Without her U.S. citizenship, she would have been unable to get her first job, experienced the insecurity and trauma of possible removal from the United States, and the inability to support her children or elderly father. “It would be heartbreaking.”

**D. J.M.: Community-college professor contributing to her students’ development as learners and leaders**

J.M. is a 50-year-old NEA member and English professor in Florida. Her parents moved from Peru to New York in the early 1970s when her father was on a student visa. When J.M. was born in New Jersey, her father was still on the student visa, and her mother was not a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. If President Trump’s Order had been in effect when J.M. was born, she would not have been an American citizen. Today, J.M. and her two sons are U.S. citizens, and her parents also eventually obtained citizenship in the 1990s.

J.M. became a first-generation college graduate and the first in her extended family to receive a doctoral degree, earning scholarships and fellowships. Because she was a U.S. citizen, she was able to pay in-state tuition at Florida public universities. If she had been charged out-of-state tuition, J.M. may not have

been able to afford to continue her education and obtain the required credentials for her chosen field.

J.M. is very involved in her school community. She teaches five or six classes per semester, serves on faculty committees, sponsors student clubs, and helps to develop a literature curriculum for aspiring educators. This is important public-service work, training the next generation of community members and leaders. J.M. explains that this is particularly crucial at community colleges, where students who have taken non-traditional paths can develop. J.M.'s school is very integrated into the community, regularly partnering with local businesses and other community organizations.

Over the decades, J.M. has had a positive impact on countless students. As a citizen, she deeply understands the crucial importance of civic participation and voting in all elections, from the national to the local level. She encourages her students to learn about their community and the issues that affect them and to take action according to their individual beliefs.

Travel is an important part of both J.M.'s job and her family life. If she were not a U.S. citizen and able to travel freely and return to the United States, she would be unable to attend professional conferences, an integral part of her professional career. On a personal level, she would be unable to maintain close connections in Peru, where most of her family still lives and where she travels nearly every year.

Yet, J.M.'s Spanish is not fluent enough for her to have made a life in Peru had she been deported. Had her life been uprooted, she predicts that she would

have struggled to adapt to a completely different school and university system and may well have had difficulty finding a job. This likely would have meant a completely different life for her and her two sisters – who are also U.S. citizens and educators. If President Trump’s Order had been in effect when J.M. was born, J.M. would never have become the dynamic professor that she is today and the United States would have been deprived of her many contributions.

**E. Y.: Ph.D. researcher dedicated to helping low-wage healthcare workers**

Y. is a forty-year-old U.S. citizen and staff member at SEIU United Healthcare Workers. Both of Y.’s parents are from South Korea. Y. was born in the United States and became a U.S. citizen at birth when her father was legally present on a student visa and her mother was on a spousal student visa. If born under the Trump administration’s Order, Y. would not have been an American citizen. Y. notes that “I have seen so many times firsthand how U.S. citizenship can make a difference in people’s lives, including my own.”

Y.’s family moved to South Korea from the United States when she was ten years old. Y. remembers the move being extremely hard for her and constantly asking to be sent back to the United States. Y. returned to the United States for college, which was only possible because, as a citizen, she was eligible for various grants and loans. Y. completed her undergraduate degree as well as a master’s degree and eventually a Ph.D. in urban planning and public policy. Now Y. returns to South Korea every few years to visit her family. Most recently she was able to fly out last minute for services after her grandfather passed on New

Year's Day. Without her U.S. citizenship her last-minute trip would have been impossible.

Y. is an avid and regular voter ever since her return to the United States at age nineteen. She believes voting is important because "it is absolutely vital for me to have my voice heard, to hold our elected officials accountable, and also to advance policies through ballot initiative process."

As a graduate student, Y. was heavily involved in her graduate student union, where she befriended many international students. Y. observes that many of her international student friends were severely restricted in their choices because of the increased cost of their "non-resident" tuition as well as their need to maintain their foreign-student immigration status which was dependent on advisors continued funding and sponsorship.

Y. performs research and analysis to support union efforts to ensure that workers, especially low-wage healthcare workers – predominately women, immigrants, and people of color – have a voice in their jobs. Y. also works on policies that increase access to quality healthcare and jobs for all workers. Y. has found that this work is a compelling way of improving the lives of those most disenfranchised in this country.

Y. believes that if she had not been able to return to the United States, her life would have been completely different. Y. thinks that the sexism in South Korea would have made it extremely hard for her to thrive in the same way she has been able to in the United States. Due to her U.S. citizenship, Y. has been able to pursue further education, vote, and have her

voice heard in the electoral process, meet her husband, visit her family in South Korea and her friends from school around the world, and build a fulfilling career helping others.

**F. P.V.: Public-school health aide whose family experience exposes the grave consequences of ending birthright citizenship for future generations**

P.V. is a 33-year-old public school paraprofessional health aide and an AFT member. Her best friend is her sister. P.V. was born in New York to undocumented parents, while her sister was born in Mexico. P.V.'s sister was brought to the United States at the age of two without legal authorization. Despite living in the United States for nearly her entire life, she remains undocumented.

From a young age, P.V. and her sister began to experience very different realities living in the United States based on their status. P.V. got a Social Security number at birth. Her sister did not. P.V. could get a driver's license and work legally. Her sister could not.

These differences became even more apparent when both sisters decided to leave high school and enter the workforce to support their family. P.V.'s sister relied on her for transportation to work because she could not obtain a driver's license. One employer exploited her sister's lack of legal status, knowing she would not challenge unfair treatment for fear of being reported to immigration authorities.

Desperate to step out of the shadows and build a life openly in the United States, P.V.'s family explored

various paths to obtain legal status. However, each effort ended in disappointment. They were victimized twice, losing over \$10,000 to scams that promised assistance with work visas.

While P.V. was able to obtain her GED and build a career, pursuing her passion for supporting children, and live openly, her sister lived cautiously. P.V.'s parents now reside in Mexico, but her sister cannot visit them. Despite having lived in the United States nearly her entire life, P.V.'s sister still lives under constant threat of detention and deportation.

P.V.'s sister is currently battling cancer and is unable to work, making health insurance a significant concern. At one point, she nearly gave up treatment, saying she would prefer to live with cancer than watch her family take on extra jobs to afford her healthcare.

For P.V., the emotional burden of living a life so different from her sister's has been immense. The sisters were raised in the same home, attended the same schools, and shared a similar upbringing; yet, their lives are vastly different. P.V. understands in a deeply personal way that if she had been born when President Trump's plan was in effect, she would not have been a U.S. citizen, and she would have suffered the same deprivations that she witnessed her sister suffering.

**G. J.: Surgeon who fears his future children will be stateless if birthright citizenship ends**

J. is a 36-year-old surgeon and an active member of SEIU's CIR who lives in New York. He and his wife were born in Mexico, and both came to the United

States five years ago, pursuant to a J-1 visa for medical training. J.'s employer, a leading academic medical center, later sponsored him for an O-1 visa due to his extraordinary ability and achievements in clinical practice and research.

Two years ago, J.'s daughter was born in New York and is a U.S. citizen. If the Order had been in effect, then J.'s daughter would not be a U.S. citizen. J. and his wife want to have another child but the prospect of subjecting their U.S.-born children to the trauma of living in the United States as virtually stateless people is inconceivable to J.

Returning to Mexico would endanger the entire family. To return to Mexico as a highly paid professional after training in the United States is very dangerous. Criminal organizations threaten those perceived as wealthy with kidnapping, torture, and murder and frequently carry out these warnings.

J. is also concerned about the effects the Order would have on the client population he serves, who are among society's most vulnerable and who are grappling with life-threatening conditions. The people J. treats often don't speak English, and many come from different countries as first- or second-generation immigrants. J. is able to understand the nuances and complexities of the symptoms and situations his Hispanic patients describe. Without the type of specialized service J. provides, care can be delayed, surgeries postponed, and diagnoses can be missed because surgeons and interpreters don't communicate as clearly as he can.

Additionally, J. worries that if his children did not have U.S. citizenship due to the Order he would be prevented from traveling for his work. International travel is fundamental to J.'s profession, to update his medical knowledge and "to learn from people who are the best of the best in the field." In addition to his clinical and surgical practice, J. has been involved in research to enhance quality of services and screening programs for early cancer detection.

J. says that "[o]ur intention is to stay here. I have more of an opportunity to contribute to the field, and to particular patients, here, because the resources in Mexico are much more limited. My bigger picture impact would be much more limited too, because there's no funding to do the research, or the infrastructure to collaborate with other experts." Similarly, J. believes that the Order could "scare away a lot of people with unique sets of skills from coming to the U.S."

**H. S.: Homecare worker whose grandchildren "are my life" and are beneficiaries of birthright citizenship**

S. is a 57-year-old homecare worker with two grandchildren who were born in the United States. She is a permanent resident of the United States, a member of SEIU Local 2015, and works providing direct personal care to patient clients in their homes, a job she has performed for the past fifteen years.

S. fled her home in Mexico with her two children to escape domestic violence. In California, her daughter gave birth to a son, S.'s first grandchild, fourteen years ago, and gave birth to a second son six years ago. If the Order had been in effect when S.'s youngest

grandson was born, he would not be a U.S. citizen. S. lives directly next door to her grandchildren and cares for them daily, with meals, clothing, and transportation to and from school.

S. loves her work. She assists patient clients who live with a variety of conditions including physical disability, mental illness, and chronic alcoholism. Depending on the individual's needs, she may bathe the client, cook for and feed them, clean house, launder clothing, and/or administer medications. She speaks warmly of one patient she has assisted for fifteen years, who suffers from schizophrenia and calls her "mother."

As much as S. loves her work, her grandchildren are "the ultimate" to her. She worries when her 14-year-old grandchild repeatedly asks her, "What will I do if they take us away? If we are deported, what will we do?"

S. adds that, if the Order had been in effect when her youngest grandson was born and thus denied his birthright citizenship, it would have changed the lives of her entire family. She fears for families like hers, who would struggle with the instability and uncertainty of living in the United States without citizenship. S. is concerned about the possibility that the Order would limit her grandson's academic and employment opportunities and expose him to deportation. She could not imagine life in the United States if her grandson had to live in Mexico: "They are my life."

**I. A.M.L.: 21-year-old daughter of an in-home health aide, studying and working toward a public-service career**

A.M.L. is a 21-year-old U.S. Citizen from Brooklyn, New York, whose mother, an AFSCME District Council 37 member, works as an in-home health aide to the elderly. A.M.L.'s mother is originally from Mexico, and although she is lawfully authorized to work, she is not a permanent resident. A.M.L. and her 15-year-old younger brother were born in the United States and have never known life anywhere else. If President Trump's Order had been in effect when A.M.L. was born, neither she nor her brother would be U.S. citizens.

A.M.L.'s mother works six days a week caring for two elderly individuals who rely on her for the tasks of daily life – she gives them sponge baths; she accompanies patients to their doctor's appointments and translates for those who have limited English proficiency; she ensures that they take their medications; and she prepares meals for them. When asked what her mother's patients would do without her, A.M.L. says that "not a lot of people want to do these jobs," and "if they didn't have my mom there, how would they get places, how would they know when to take their pills, and once they run out [of medication], what would happen then?"

A.M.L. graduated from New York City College of Technology with a bachelor's degree in human services. She hopes to eventually work at a government agency or organization that helps people who are in need. A.M.L. notes that her own experience growing

up inspires her to help others, recounting the language barriers and racism she and her mom encountered when navigating the requirements of the social service system.

A.M.L. balanced her academic responsibilities with work as a temporary clerical associate at the World Trade Center, where she assists with the collection and review of documents for new employee onboarding.

Encouraged by her mother, A.M.L. often contributes to her community by volunteering through her church and helping at local food pantries. She also plans to tutor young children about to start school.

A.M.L. thinks her life would “definitely turn completely upside down” if she were not a U.S. citizen, were subject to deportation, and forced to leave the United States. Being forced to leave the country she knows and loves “would put me back to zero – I have a higher education here, but would I be able to use my degree there? Probably not.” A.M.L. describes a distressing state of limbo when reflecting on the prospect of a life without her U.S. citizenship – “It would emotionally hurt [to leave] because I’m [of] Mexican [descent], but I wasn’t born there, I would be without my family, friends and colleagues who want me ... being forced to leave would place me in the middle of nowhere.”

**J. M.: Outstanding high school student working to become a lawyer and represent her community**

M. is a native-born U.S. citizen, a high school student at the highly ranked School Without Walls in

Washington, D.C., and the daughter of a janitor who is a long-time SEIU 32BJ member. Together M. and her mother, a Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) recipient from El Salvador, reside in Washington, D.C., where M. has lived her entire life. Under President Trump’s Order, M. would not be a U.S. citizen because at the time of her birth her mother had TPS status and her father was neither a U.S. citizen nor legal resident.

M., an exceptional student who was accepted at a Washington, DC magnet high school (“School Without Walls”) after a rigorous interview and enrollment process, plans to attend an ivy league or other premier university to achieve her goal of becoming an attorney. In preparation for this goal, M. has visited and toured Harvard. “I intend to become a lawyer and to help and represent the people in my community. I don’t think that it’s enough to just enjoy the great educational benefits that I receive at my school. I think it’s my responsibility to give back, including giving back to my mother, who has done so much for me.” M. hopes to earn enough money in the future to buy a house for her mother.

M. understands that her U.S. citizenship provides her with opportunities that she would never have had if President Trump’s Order were in effect when she was born. During a visit to El Salvador several years ago with her uncle, she witnessed first-hand the appalling conditions and the lack of educational supplies in Salvadoran schools. “I brought paper and pencils to schools in El Salvador because without those donations, the students would have had nothing.” She also observed that the people she met in El Salvador worked selling food on street corners. M. concludes

that her educational and career aspirations could only be achieved because she is a U.S. citizen living in the United States.

M. is active in her Catholic church, participating in a church group that helps fundraise for members of the community that need assistance. As part of this church group, M. traveled to Portugal two years ago for an audience with the Pope. “I am so grateful that because I am a U.S. citizen I was able to travel freely to have an amazing experience meeting the Pope and that I also had the ability to see my mother’s country, El Salvador.”

M. is looking forward to her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday not only because she will be graduating high school and getting ready to go to college, but also because she will be able to vote. “I want to participate in choosing our country’s leaders. I think voting is important and it will mean a lot to me when I’m 18 and I can have a voice in picking who will lead our country.” M. appreciates that it is only because she is a U.S. citizen that she can vote and make her voice heard.

\*\*\*

The foregoing examples are illustrative of the devastating consequences that denying birthright citizenship would have on children born in the United States, their families, their communities, their workplaces, and the Nation.

**CONCLUSION**

The district court's order should be affirmed.

Dated: February 24, 2026      Respectfully submitted,

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