SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ KIRSTJEN M. NIELSEN,) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY,) ET AL.,) Petitioners,)) No. 16-1363 v. MONY PREAP, ET AL.,) Respondents.)

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1 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES 2 _ 3 KIRSTJEN M. NIELSEN,) 4 SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY,) 5 ET AL.,) 6 Petitioners,) 7 v.) No. 16-1363 8 MONY PREAP, ET AL.,) 9 Respondents.) 10 11 12 Washington, D.C. 13 Wednesday, October 10, 2018 14 The above-entitled matter came on for 15 16 oral argument before the Supreme Court of the 17 United States at 10:05 a.m. 18 19 **APPEARANCES:** 20 ZACHARY D. TRIPP, Assistant to the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; on behalf 21 22 of the Petitioners. 23 CECILLIA D. WANG, ESQ., New York, New York; on behalf 24 of the Respondents. 25

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1 PROCEEDINGS 2 (10:05 a.m.) 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument first this morning in Case 16-1363, 4 5 Nielsen, Secretary of Homeland Security, versus 6 Preap. 7 Mr. Tripp. 8 ORAL ARGUMENT OF ZACHARY D. TRIPP 9 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS 10 MR. TRIPP: Mr. Chief Justice, and may 11 it please the Court: 12 A criminal alien does not become 13 exempt from mandatory detention by the 14 happenstance that DHS did not arrest them 15 immediately or promptly after they got out of 16 jail or prison. And the best way to illustrate 17 this point is just to look at the statutory 18 text. And -- and the -- the key provision 19 20 we're talking about here is 1226(c)(2). This is the prohibition against releasing a detained 21 2.2 criminal alien. And this is on page 4 of our 23 merits brief. And what it says is that the 24 Secretary may release an alien described in 25 paragraph (1) only if it is for witness

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1 protection.

2 And it's undisputed here that the witness protection exception does not apply and 3 that this categorically prohibits the release 4 on bond of anybody who is an alien described in 5 6 paragraph (1). 7 So then the question is, who are those 8 aliens? And on -- and in paragraph (1) -- it's 9 on the prior page, and it just answers that in 10 no uncertain terms. It says, the Secretary 11 shall take into custody "any alien who is 12 inadmissible" or "is deportable" under these different provisions that relate to their 13 14 criminal history or terrorist activities. 15 And so an alien described in -- in paragraph (1) is any alien who is inadmissible 16 17 or is deportable under one of these provisions. 18 In -- in the next part of the 19 statute --20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So what meaning do 21 you give to when the alien is released? Does 22 it command you to do anything? 23 MR. TRIPP: Yeah, the -- the -- the key function of that, so -- is to tell the 24 25 Secretary when to act, right? So it's aligned

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flush left, along with the command that the 1 2 Secretary shall --So you don't see JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: 3 any sense of urgency in your acting, no sense 4 5 of encouraging you --MR. TRIPP: Oh, no, we --6 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- in some way to 8 actually do what the statute says --9 MR. TRIPP: We -- we --10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- which is to 11 take custody of somebody? MR. TRIPP: -- we absolutely think 12 that this conveys a sense of urgency, and I 13 14 think we're in full agreement with Respondents that this is directing -- that -- that -- that 15 16 this is an urgent priority. It's a mandate, 17 you know, and -- and it -- and it kicks in, it 18 is triggered as soon as the alien is released. It is -- our -- our key point is that 19 the phrase "when the alien is released" --20 21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So tell me why 22 would you have -- need transition rules under 23 your reading of this statute, which there were. 24 And the transition rules said you have two 25 years, essentially, to put in place enough

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1 personnel and facilities to do what the statute 2 requires you to do. Why did you need that two-year period 3 if, in your view, you have absolute 4 5 discretion --MR. TRIPP: Tt's --6 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- to pick an 8 alien up whenever you want to anyway? 9 MR. TRIPP: I -- I think that's really 10 not a fair characterization of our position. 11 Our understanding is that this is a mandate. 12 It -- it is triggered immediately. In a very large number of cases, the arrest is going to 13 14 occur immediately. This is a mandate. And this statute was going to direct that many more 15 aliens be arrested. 16 17 And so under our standard -- our, you 18 know -- and the real concern with the 19 transition period rules was a lack of bed 20 space. 21 And under both of our interpretations, 2.2 this is going to drive up the number of aliens 23 who are arrested. 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, no, no. But 25 why did you need the transition rules at all?

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1 If you have discretion, as you claim to have, 2 to decide when you're going to pick up an alien, either the day of release or, in one 3 case, before us -- 11 years later, you didn't 4 need the transition rules. You could have just 5 done what you needed to do to create the bed 6 7 space or get the personnel and start arresting 8 people when you thought you could. 9 MR. TRIPP: But, again, I want to be 10 clear, we don't interpret this to say that we 11 can arrest the person whenever we want. We --12 we understand this to be a continuing urgent obligation to arrest them right now. 13 14 We need to arrest them when they get We need to arrest them the next day, the 15 out. 16 next month, whenever it happens. But, you 17 know, sometimes it may not occur for years --18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So let's go to --MR. TRIPP: -- because DHS doesn't 19 20 know where the person is. 21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- let's go to the 22 release provision. 23 MR. TRIPP: Right. 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Paragraph (1) is 25 an entire paragraph. It describes a type of

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1 alien and an alien who's picked up at a 2 particular time. So, if the statute intended this lack 3 of authority to kick in if the alien only met 4 (A) through (D), why doesn't the statute say 5 6 that? 7 MR. TRIPP: Well, I guess it --8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Why doesn't it say 9 paragraph (1), (A) through (D)? MR. TRIPP: A -- a -- a couple 10 11 responses. I think those are the only portions 12 of the statute that describe -- that actually 13 describe the alien. The phrase "when the alien is released" doesn't describe him. It takes as 14 a given that he's already been fully described. 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It -- it describes 16 the type of alien we're talking about. 17 18 MR. TRIPP: I -- I don't think --JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It describes the 19 20 person who's subject to this provision. MR. TRIPP: I -- I -- I don't think 21 22 that's right because it says when -- that might 23 be right if it said something like the 24 Secretary shall take into custody any alien who 25 is inadmissible and deportable, you know, and

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who has not been released for more than such 1 2 and such amount of time. But that's not what it says. It says 3 when the alien is released, which I think takes 4 as a given that he's already been fully 5 described. 6 7 But another, I think, important answer 8 to this is the text of 1226(a), which I'd also 9 like to -- to walk through. Their basic theory 10 is that these arrests are happening under (a). I don't think they're right about that, but 11 12 even if they were, they would still lose. So under -- this is in the Pet. App., 13 14 actually, at 141a. And 1226(a), this is the background rule, and it has -- like (C), it has 15 these two sentences. The first is about 16 arrest, and the second is about custody. 17 And the first sentence says, "on a 18 19 warrant issued by the Attorney General, an 20 alien may be arrested and detained, pending a decision on whether he is to be removed." 21 2.2 And so what (c)(1) does is it takes 23 that discretionary authority and it turns it 24 into a mandate to the Secretary that she shall 25 arrest these certain criminal aliens. But what

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1 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Tripp, is your -- your position then it is totally irrelevant 3 whether the -- the change in custody is 4 immediate or it's seven years down the road? 5 Whenever it occurs, the Attorney General has no 6 7 discretion to have a bond hearing? Whenever it 8 occurs, seven years, eight years, 10 years, the 9 person is detained without bond, right? 10 MR. TRIPP: Yes, that's absolutely our 11 -- our understanding of (c)(2), yeah. And --12 and --13 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Along those lines, 14 Mr. Tripp, does the government have any view 15 about if ever the obligation under (c) lapses? Could it be 30 years? Could it be --16 17 MR. TRIPP: Under (c)(1)? 18 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Yeah. The 19 obligation to take into custody under (c)(1). 20 Thirty years, and the government was aware of him the entire time and chose not to act. Kind 21 2.2 of a laches argument. Is there any limit on 23 the government's power? MR. TRIPP: So we understand that --24 25 that -- as (c)(1) to be a continuing

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obligation, it does not lapse, but can I -- if 1 2 I could just follow through with (a) -- with the text of (a) and just how this supports us 3 on the custody determination, I think it would 4 5 be helpful. So as I -- there's this first 6 7 discretionary authority to arrest the alien and 8 then the next sentence talks about what do you do after he's been arrested, and what it says 9 10 is, except as provided in subsection (c) of 11 this section and pending such decision, the 12 Secretary either may continue to detain him or may release him on bond. 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: So, Mr. Tripp --14 MR. TRIPP: But, of course, what (c) 15 16 says is you can't release him at all. 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- just to think about how these two provisions interact with each 18 other, I'm wondering if you can tell me with 19 20 respect to a group of people who are not 21 involved here. 2.2 MR. TRIPP: Okay. 23 JUSTICE KAGAN: As I understand it, these (A) through (D) categories include some 24 25 people who have never been in criminal custody

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1 at all. So let's take spouses or children of 2 terrorists. But there are a number of categories of people who have never been in 3 custody at all. 4 5 MR. TRIPP: Right. JUSTICE KAGAN: So they fit within 6 7 this (A) through (D) category. I'm wondering 8 where you think the authority to detain them 9 comes from. Does the authority to detain them 10 come from (c) or does it come from (a)? 11 MR. TRIPP: The authority to -- so I 12 think, actually, in -- for all of them, the authority to do the arrest comes from (a). And 13 14 -- and -- and -- but what happens with (c) is (c)(1) makes the arrest mandatory, and we do 15 16 think it makes it mandatory including for those 17 people who have never been in custody at all, 18 that the "when the alien is released" describes 19 when the duty is triggered, but there are some 20 aliens, in particular with the (c)(1)(D)21 category that you're talking about, the 22 national security terrorist ones where the 23 person has never been in any prior custody. 24 But, again, it --25 JUSTICE KAGAN: I quess I'm not -- I'm

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1 not --2 MR. TRIPP: -- it really ultimately 3 doesn't matter. JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, it sort of 4 5 matters to me, I think. You know, you could be saying, if I -- if I understand your -- your 6 7 view of described in paragraph (1), these 8 aliens are described in paragraph (1) even 9 though they've never been in criminal custody. 10 MR. TRIPP: That's right. 11 JUSTICE KAGAN: So that would suggest 12 that (c)(1) is authorizing their detention, and 13 that's what you're saying? 14 MR. TRIPP: No. Sorry, (c) -- well, (c) -- (c)(1) is about arrest, just like the 15 first sentence of (a) is about arrest. This is 16 17 a --18 JUSTICE KAGAN: Yes. How are you 19 arresting these people? Are you arresting them 20 under (c)(1)? 21 MR. TRIPP: I think actually, frankly, 2.2 the answer is that we're arresting them under 23 both (a) and (c)(1). You know, the arrests, 24 they have to be upon a warrant. That 25 requirement comes from (a).

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The -- the -- this -- all of this is 1 2 pending a determination of whether the alien is 3 to be removed. That comes from (a). JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, when you say 4 5 you're arresting them under both, are you saying that with respect to everybody under 6 7 (c)(1), you're also arresting --8 MR. TRIPP: Yes. JUSTICE KAGAN: -- them under (a)? 9 10 Okay. So that I'm not interested in. 11 MR. TRIPP: Okay. 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: You know, that kind of -- you're saying that those people are under 13 14 (c)(1) to the same extent as people who have been in criminal custody? 15 16 MR. TRIPP: That's right. 17 JUSTICE KAGAN: So that seems odd to 18 me because (c)(1) seems to me all about people who have been in criminal custody. 19 20 MR. TRIPP: Well --21 JUSTICE KAGAN: Now you have this 22 question about how about if there's a gap 23 between the criminal custody, but -- but -- but 24 your interpretation necessitates that you 25 understand even people who have never been in

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criminal custody as part of the (c)(1) group. 1 2 MR. TRIPP: That's right. I think just the one thing I would point out is in the 3 overwhelming majority of applications of this 4 statute, this is, I think, still totally 5 sensible because, in the overwhelming majority 6 7 of applications, the person is about criminal, 8 and in all of the criminal ones, there's going 9 to have been some prior criminal custody. And 10 so that's --11 JUSTICE KAGAN: You know --12 MR. TRIPP: -- I think, really the 13 paradigm of the statute. JUSTICE KAGAN: -- yes, this is --14 this is a small group relatively, but it's 15 definitely a group. There are guite a number 16 17 of subcategories that have never been in criminal custody here, and we could go over 18 what they are if anybody's interested, but 19 20 there are a number. And -- and -- and your statutory 21 22 interpretation, particularly your narrow view 23 of the term described in paragraph (1), 24 requires that those people be understood as 25 within the (c)(1) custody authority, and, I

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don't know, I look at the (c)(1) custody 1 2 authority and it's all about criminal custody and what happens when you're released from 3 criminal custody, and that makes me think that 4 your interpretation of the words described in 5 6 paragraph (1) is wrong. 7 MR. TRIPP: I -- I -- I think it's 8 more that you may disagree about whether the 9 duty to arrest -- the mandate to arrest them in 10 (c)(1) kicks in when an alien has -- has not 11 been in prior criminal custody, in some prior 12 state or federal criminal custody, but even -even if you disagree with us on that, so, first 13 14 of all, all of the Respondents here have been in some prior custody. 15 And, of -- of -- of course, what --16 what we're really saying is that, you know, the 17 -- the timing of their arrest, the timing of 18 their release is just -- is -- is totally 19 20 irrelevant when it comes to (c)(2). And I think one --21 2.2 JUSTICE BREYER: What about the first 23 I mean, we've read the briefs. You've part? 24 read them. It seemed to me reading them there 25 are people here who have been detained for 11

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1 years, 14 years.

2 MR. TRIPP: They were released for --JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, they were 3 4 arrested --5 MR. TRIPP: Yeah. JUSTICE BREYER: -- 14 years after 6 7 being released, and one for taking bus 8 transfers. He had been arrested and put on 9 probation or something for stealing bus 10 transfers. 11 Well, all you have to do is read the 12 briefs. To me, I'm not saying to you, that isn't a parade of possible future horribles. 13 14 Those are the horribles. Every person in the United States, just about, if he's arrested has 15 the right to a bail hearing. 16 17 As you know from my opinion in 18 Jennings, I think that's unconstitutional. But 19 the Court didn't decide the contrary, all 20 right? So assume, as I am assuming, that this 21 22 paragraph is ambiguous at most in your favor. 23 And if it's ambiguous, and if there is a huge, 24 as I think, a huge constitutional question, 25 then don't we read it not to apply or to apply

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to those who have been properly released? 1 2 I take it you don't think the government could come back 50 years later and 3 arrest somebody who's a grandfather or 4 something, you know, he -- he stole some bus 5 transfers 50 years earlier. Is that what you 6 7 think (c) authorizes? 8 MR. TRIPP: So a -- a couple of responses to that. So, first, of course, our 9 10 -- our -- our top line answer is that this 11 statute is not ambiguous, that the only 12 plausible reading of this might --13 JUSTICE BREYER: So you think a person 14 50 years later, who is on his death bed, after stealing some bus transfers, that the -- the --15 the -- this -- this paragraph says that the 16 17 Attorney General shall release him and hold him without bail, even though in this country a 18 triple ax murderer --19 20 MR. TRIPP: So -- so --JUSTICE BREYER: -- is given bail, a 21 22 hearing, a hearing? 23 MR. TRIPP: -- a-- a -- a couple more answers to that. So, first, I don't think that 24 25 hypothetical would hold out. Theft can be a

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crime involving moral turpitude. But both the 1 2 deportability and admissibility provisions on 3 crimes involving moral turpitude -- so, if you look at, for deportable aliens --4 5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: All right. But now 6 we're --7 MR. TRIPP: -- this is under 8 1226(c)(1)(C). 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- we're quibbling, 10 Mr. Tripp. 11 MR. TRIPP: You need to be in jail for 12 a year. 13 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Mr. Tripp, we're quibbling, all right? Justice Breyer's 14 question is my question and I really wish you'd 15 answer it. We can quibble over what 16 17 constitutes a crime of moral turpitude, but 18 they're legion, they're legion, and whether 19 it's a bus transfer or whatever hypothetical, 20 it doesn't matter. All right. Fifty years 21 later, a minor crime, you say, yes, the 22 government must come and arrest him, right? 23 MR. TRIPP: So I'm not trying to 24 quibble over what's a crime involving moral 25 turpitude. I'm saying that there's a -- a

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1 sentence -- a sentence requirement under the 2 statute. 3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Let's say --JUSTICE BREYER: What is the answer, 4 5 though? Is the government's position that this paragraph, which says shall be arrested upon 6 7 release, applies to a person who has been 8 released 50 years before? What is your 9 position? I'm not even criticizing you, though 10 I was. 11 MR. TRIPP: Our position is absolutely 12 that this -- that this applies regardless of 13 the timing. 14 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. Okay. MR. TRIPP: This statute went into 15 effect in 1998. It's not retroactive. 16 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. 18 MR. TRIPP: So -- so we're not -- not 19 looking at that yet. 20 JUSTICE BREYER: So your position is 21 yes, he's 50. 2.2 MR. TRIPP: And then --23 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. Now --24 MR. TRIPP: -- to get into the 25 constitutional question --

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JUSTICE BREYER: But wait. Let me ask 1 2 another question, please, because I have the 3 answer now what your position is. Okay. Now my second question is this: 4 5 There is support for your position in the cases, and the cases that support it, I 6 7 thought, were the cases that says when the 8 government misses a bail deadline, then you can 9 go ahead and have the bail hearing anyway, see, 10 when there's a bail deadline missed, because 11 that's not really said about what happens when 12 you miss the bail deadline. 13 MR. TRIPP: Right. 14 JUSTICE BREYER: And the same is true 15 here. 16 MR. TRIPP: That's right. Now that I thought 17 JUSTICE BREYER: 18 was your strong -- to me the strongest 19 argument. 20 MR. TRIPP: Right. And that --JUSTICE BREYER: So I thought then --21 22 and this is my question -- I thought then, is 23 this like those cases? And the answer I thought was: Well, yes, in the sense that 24 25 there is A, no statement of what happens when

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1 you miss the deadline, right there, and, B, the 2 government, well, says -- all right. A is good 3 enough.

But, there is a big difference. 4 In the bail cases, the result of missing the 5 deadline, the result of reading in no deadline 6 7 is you're going to have a bail hearing. The 8 community will be protected, right? The 9 community will be protected with a bail 10 hearing. And the individual will not be hurt 11 much because all he'd be missing is a hearing 12 that he should have had anyway.

13 But, in this case, if you read the 14 statute the same way, what you're doing to the individual is many who are not -- no danger to 15 16 the community, no danger to the community, 17 you're depriving them of a hearing that could mean their release and you're keeping them 18 instead for 11, 12, 13, 14 years. 19 20 And what you're doing to the community, reading it your way, if we read it 21 22 the opposite way, nothing. You'll have the

23 bail hearing. The dangerous people won't get 24 out.

MR. TRIPP: So I --

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1 JUSTICE BREYER: So I thought in terms 2 of the purposes -- are you following what I'm 3 saying? MR. TRIPP: 4 Yes. JUSTICE BREYER: You see, in terms of 5 the purposes of the bail statute or this 6 7 statute or any other statute, we read it 8 technically your way, and we hurt everybody in 9 terms of the purposes. We read it the opposite 10 way and we hurt virtually nobody. 11 MR. TRIPP: So and this is the piece I -- I want to push back on hard. I think this 12 is -- the Montalvo-Murillo, these better late 13 14 than never cases, I think, are squarely on point for our understanding of (c)(1). And --15 16 and the key point, as you said, is that, you know -- well, a couple things. 17 18 One is, you know, what is the authority that you would lose? The authority 19 20 we would lose is (c)(2), the authority to hold them without a bail hearing. And the whole 21 22 point of this statute is to stop doing bail 23 hearings on the ground -- on the traditional 24 bail factors of flight risk and recidivism. 25 JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. Tripp?

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1 MR. TRIPP: That's the entire point. 2 JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. Tripp? MR. TRIPP: Congress looked at this 3 They -- they -- they worked with it for 4 issue. 5 years and years and years. And I think, basically, at the end of the day, Congress's 6 7 answer was enough is enough, if you're an 8 alien, you come here, you commit one of these 9 crimes, you've effectively forfeited whatever 10 right you have to remain at large in the 11 community. 12 And so to be looking back at the bail factors is to defeat the -- the purpose of the 13 14 statute. And we have two, I think, very powerful examples here, just among the named 15 16 plaintiffs. Right? 17 We have Mr. -- so Mr. Mony Preap, he 18 was out for seven years and then he was rearrested for a domestic abuse charge which he 19 20 pleaded down to battery. We have Mr. Rodriguez 21 Moya --2.2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And yet he -- yet 23 he got cancellation of removal, didn't he? 24 MR. TRIPP: He did get cancellation of 25 removal. But then we have Mr. Rodriguez Moya,

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who was out for three years, he got a bond 1 2 hearing, he was released, and he attempted to 3 murder his ex-girlfriend and succeeded in murdering her new boyfriend. 4 JUSTICE ALITO: Now, Mr. Tripp, what 5 is the definition of the class that was 6 7 certified by the district court? Does it 8 consist of -- solely of people who have been -who were released from criminal custody many 9 10 years ago? MR. TRIPP: No, not even close. 11 It's -- it's any -- any criminal alien who is not 12 arrested immediately. So there's an 13 14 extraordinary mismatch between the kinds of claims that were -- that -- that I think 15 16 Respondents are getting at, these sort of long-, long-term ones, and what we're talking 17 18 about here. 19 And I think really what those --20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Do you have any sense, understanding, even estimate of the -- in the 21 22 whole class, how many people are people who 23 were detained a day later? How many people were -- you know, were detained a year plus 24 25 later?

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1 MR. TRIPP: Yeah. So I -- I think the 2 short answer is we really don't know. There's -- there's nothing in the record on that. 3 And there aren't any published statistics on this 4 5 either. I think one thing that might help is 6 7 if I could just take a step back and explain 8 the many reasons why gaps in custody can occur 9 and why they're often fairly long. 10 So -- so, first, in order to arrest an 11 alien under one of these provisions, DHS, of 12 course, first needs to know that the person is actually an alien and that they've actually 13 14 committed one of these crimes. And in many cases, that's going to 15 take like real leq work by DHS officers on --16 17 on the ground, pulling the records of conviction, looking to see the statute, 18 comparing the elements of the statute to the 19 20 elements of the generic offense. And I think, as the Court is painfully 21 22 aware, that can -- that can be difficult and 23 time-consuming. And then even when --24 JUSTICE BREYER: What about saying a 25 reasonable time, the word -- the words that we

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know are there, "upon his release," means a 1 2 reasonable time within his release, you know, a Therefore, the people who 3 reasonable time. have been hiding in the mountains for 10 years, 4 we say, well, yeah, that's a reasonable time. 5 But the people who have families and have jobs 6 7 and have lived as citizens of the community for 8 14 years, that was not a reasonable time when 9 you went 14 years later. 10 What about that typical legal term in 11 order to satisfy what the government says, as 12 you say, is its major interest? 13 MR. TRIPP: So I think a couple of 14 responses. So -- so, first, (c)(2) doesn't have a timing requirement at all, and that's 15 16 the statute that we are relying on. And I 17 think, second, what you're really getting at and I think the force of what you're saying is 18 that it feels different when the alien's been 19 20 out for a really, really long period of time. And I think what -- what that's 21 22 getting at is -- I -- I think that -- that it 23 would have been perfectly rational for Congress to add a statute of limitations here, to say 24

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something in (c)(2) like an alien may be

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1 released only if it's for witness protection or 2 if --3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That only works --MR. TRIPP: -- the person has been out 4 5 for 10 years and hasn't gotten into trouble --JUSTICE KAGAN: But are you saying --6 7 MR. TRIPP: -- and is potentially 8 eligible for --9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You -- you --10 JUSTICE KAGAN: -- but are you saying, 11 Mr. Tripp, that there's no constitutional claim 12 as to any of these people, even if a person has been out for 15 years, has established ties in 13 14 the community? Are you saying that there's no constitutional problem with that? 15 MR. TRIPP: So, I mean, we -- we 16 certainly don't think there's a substantial 17 constitutional problem that they have 18 identified. I mean, Demore versus Kim squarely 19 20 upheld this statute. They are not asking the 21 Court to overrule Demore. They're not saying 2.2 that it's wrongly decided. Their only argument 23 is that Demore only applies if the person was 24 arrested within a day of when they were 25 released.

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1 JUSTICE KAGAN: Right. Well, that's 2 what I'm saying. 3 Well, that may or may JUSTICE ALITO: 4 not --5 JUSTICE KAGAN: That's what I'm I mean, assume that this class were 6 saying. 7 made up of people who hadn't -- who had lived 8 after release from criminal custody for a very 9 substantial period of time, whatever it is, 10 five years, 10 years, 15 years. 11 Would they have constitutional -serious constitutional claims in your view? 12 13 MR. TRIPP: I -- I think the answer is no under the analysis in Demore. So, first of 14 all, when a -- when a criminal alien is finally 15 put into removal proceedings, they know this is 16 17 happening, they've been arrested, all of that. 18 The -- the incentive to flee is not insubstantial. Their -- their criminal 19 20 conviction is almost always going to establish that they are removable, and they're often 21 22 going to be ineligible for any kind of relief. 23 So this -- the -- it's not going to look --24 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you -- could 25 you explain then why Preap himself was eligible

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for relief?

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2 MR. TRIPP: Because not all -- only some criminal aliens and -- and more -- more 3 LPRs have -- have eligibility for relief. 4 Ιf you're not an LPR, the -- the barrier is -- is 5 -- is much broader. 6 7 But -- but also I think -- again, I 8 think even just the facts of this case show that the danger of recidivism does not 9 10 disappear after you pass some number of years. 11 JUSTICE BREYER: Of course it does. 12 Look, would you do me one favor? First, assume I'm right, which I know is a heroic assumption. 13 14 (Laughter.) JUSTICE BREYER: But -- but -- but 15 assume that there's a constitutional problem in 16 a country which gives every triple ax murderer 17 a bail hearing, but these people don't, okay? 18 All you're involved is a bail hearing. Now 19 20 assume another thing with me, which you don't 21 want to, that the statute is ambiguous. 2.2 Now, if I'm right on those two things, 23 why would the government really care? Why does 24 the government care? Why wouldn't it want to 25 say, okay, we'll give him a bail hearing? The

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-- the baddies will be in jail, and the ones
 who are no risk won't be.

MR. TRIPP: I -- I think the real 3 concern is really what Congress was getting at 4 here, is that making this prediction of which 5 criminal aliens are going to flee and which are 6 7 going to re-offend is actually really, really 8 hard, right? And I think, you know, the -- the 9 example of Mr. Rodriguez Moya, I think, drives 10 that home, you know, that when IJs were doing 11 this with the criminal alien in front of them, 12 on the basis of the traditional bail factors, Congress's basic judgment was that too many of 13 them were going to be released and that it 14 actually wasn't working. 15

And so Congress, you know, they 16 17 experimented with this. That was the rule for many decades, until Congress started narrowing 18 19 down and -- and building out these statutes --20 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, Mr. Tripp --21 MR. TRIPP: -- with mandatory 2.2 detention. 23 JUSTICE ALITO: -- you've been --24 you've been pushed on the question whether 25 there might be some circumstances in which an

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alien who would otherwise fall within the 1 2 statute would have a constitutional right to a bail hearing, but I thought the question that 3 we agreed to decide related to the -- what the 4 5 Ninth Circuit saw as a requirement that the alien that -- that Homeland Security take the 6 7 alien into custody immediately, and that was 8 the class of aliens that was certified by the district court. 9 10 So, if we were to reverse that

11 determination, would that preclude a challenge 12 by -- an individual challenge, an as-applied challenge by an alien who fell within the --13 14 the circumstances that have been described? MR. TRIPP: No, of course not. 15 That 16 safety valve is always available, and I think it's frankly much -- much more faithful to what 17 Congress was trying to -- to accomplish here. 18 And if I --19

JUSTICE KAGAN: And -- and do you agree that an alien could bring that challenge, notwithstanding 1226(e)? So 1226(e), right, is -- is -- is the jurisdictional provision.

24 MR. TRIPP: Yes.

25 JUSTICE KAGAN: Does that at all

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prevent an alien from bringing the kind of 1 2 challenge that Justice Alito is talking about? MR. TRIPP: I -- I think -- our 3 understanding is no, actually, aliens bring 4 these kinds of claims in the prolonged 5 detention context with some frequency. 6 7 But if I could reserve the balance of 8 my time. 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, 10 counsel. 11 Ms. Wang. 12 ORAL ARGUMENT OF CECILLIA D. WANG 13 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS 14 MS. WANG: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the Court: 15 The government's reading is contrary 16 17 to the text, structure, and purpose of the 18 statute in at least three ways. One, it negates Congress's directive to use finite 19 20 mandatory detention resources on those who 21 would otherwise be released into the community 2.2 from criminal custody. 23 Second, it's not true that Congress 24 wanted to detain and deport all criminal 25 aliens, as the government claims in its reply

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1 brief at page 12.

2	And, three, if Congress really wanted
3	what the executive branch claims here, it would
4	have simply written a statute that says people
5	in these four categories shall be detained
б	without a hearing until removed.
7	That is not what Congress did.
8	Instead, Congress wrote a statute, 1226(c), as
9	an exception to the general detention scheme in
10	1226(a) which applies except as provided in
11	subsection (c), not as except not except as
12	provided in section $(c)(2)$, as the government
13	would have it.
14	Congress wrote section 1226(c) in two
14 15	Congress wrote section 1226(c) in two paragraphs. The first paragraph says who gets
15	paragraphs. The first paragraph says who gets
15 16	paragraphs. The first paragraph says who gets taken into custody and when, and the second
15 16 17	paragraphs. The first paragraph says who gets taken into custody and when, and the second paragraph says of those people in paragraph (1)
15 16 17 18	paragraphs. The first paragraph says who gets taken into custody and when, and the second paragraph says of those people in paragraph (1) who can be released.
15 16 17 18 19	paragraphs. The first paragraph says who gets taken into custody and when, and the second paragraph says of those people in paragraph (1) who can be released. Now the government claims instead, in
15 16 17 18 19 20	paragraphs. The first paragraph says who gets taken into custody and when, and the second paragraph says of those people in paragraph (1) who can be released. Now the government claims instead, in a stretch of a reading, that you focus only on
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>paragraphs. The first paragraph says who gets taken into custody and when, and the second paragraph says of those people in paragraph (1) who can be released.</pre>
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<pre>paragraphs. The first paragraph says who gets taken into custody and when, and the second paragraph says of those people in paragraph (1) who can be released.</pre>

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said except -- as an alien described in 1 2 paragraph (1), not an alien described in 3 paragraph (1)(A) through (D). And the government's reading, trying 4 to pull section (2), (c)(2), out as that 5 free-standing authorization, leads to three 6 7 serious anomalies that they struggle to 8 explain, as they did with you, Justice Kagan. 9 The first anomaly is, as you noted, 10 that the transition rules, which were meant to 11 be a ramp-up to the permanent rule, are 12 completely superfluous. If the government really could delay, for whatever reason, 13 14 picking up people subject to mandatory 15 detention for as long as it needs or wants, then Congress would not need to have that 16 17 intermediate step. 18 The second anomaly with the government's reading is -- and the government 19 20 struggled with this in response, again, to your questions, Justice Kagan -- is that if the only 21 22 qualification to be subject to mandatory 23 detention is that you fall into one of the four 24 categories in A through D, they necessarily 25 read out the prior criminal custody

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1 requirement.

2	In in addition to the example you
3	gave, Justice Kagan, of a child or a spouse of
4	a terrorist, there's a very typical situation:
5	I'm an immigrant. I show up for my Green Card
6	interview. And I live in California or
7	Washington, and I confidently say, yes, I use
8	marijuana on a regular basis. I've never been
9	arrested. I've never been convicted of a
10	controlled substance offense. But based on my
11	admission to possession of a controlled
12	substance, I might then be subject to mandatory
13	detention on the spot as I sit there in a CIS
14	office under the government's reading.
15	Now the government acknowledges that
16	eliminating a prior criminal custody
17	requirement would be anomalous, and they do
18	find, they do acknowledge there's a prior
19	criminal custody requirement. But instead of
20	finding that in the natural and obvious place
21	within the four corners of this statute, that
22	is, as Justice Sotomayor pointed out, the
23	phrase "when the alien is released," they go
24	hunting around back to the uncodified effective
25	date provision for Section 1226(c), which says

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it applies to aliens released after October 8,
 1998.

That leads to a further anomaly, the third anomaly, which, as Judge Baron explained in his opinion in Castaneda, 810 F.3d at 29, that the transition period rule, again, which was meant to be an intermediate step up, is less broad -- excuse me, is broader than the permanent rule in Section 1226(c).

JUSTICE GINSBURG: Ms. Wang, there's another anomaly. Maybe you can explain it to me. Let's take two people, identical crimes, one of the ones in A through D. One of them gets picked up immediately and no bail hearing. The other doesn't get picked up until two years later, bail hearing.

As far as the alien is concerned, these two are identically situated, and yet one gets the benefit of a bail hearing and the other doesn't.

21 Why does that make sense? 22 MS. WANG: Your Honor, well, the 23 person who is detained immediately falls under 24 Congress's scheme. Congress provided that if 25 you're within categories A through D and you

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are taken into custody, when you're released 1 2 from your criminal custody, and you aren't needed for witness protection purposes, 3 mandatory detention --4 5 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But suppose I'm the -- I'm the alien in the category that's picked 6 7 up immediately, and I ask you, explain to me 8 why I don't get a hearing and yet someone who had the benefit of being out for two years, 9 10 three years, does get a hearing. 11 MS. WANG: My first response to you, 12 Justice Ginsburg, would be that's what the statute provides. 13 14 And the second response is that the Court decided in Demore in 2003 that applying 15 16 the mandatory detention rule, at least, not 17 considering the question before the Court now, 18 is constitutional. And that brings me, I think, to the --19 20 to answer the question about constitutional 21 avoidance that you brought up, Justice Breyer, 22 that when Congress -- there are two reasons the 23 government says better late than never. There 24 are lots of reasons why this Congress did not 25 want better late than never.

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The first is the text and the 1 2 structure of the statute, which indicate if the person is not taken into custody when they're 3 released from criminal custody by ICE, then 4 5 they're under 1226(a) and you get a hearing. JUSTICE ALITO: What do you think 6 7 "when" -- what do you think "when means"? Does 8 it mean immediately? 9 MS. WANG: Your Honor, we --10 JUSTICE ALITO: Does "when" mean 11 immediately? 12 MS. WANG: Yes, Your Honor. And we 13 would ask the Court to affirm --14 JUSTICE ALITO: Immediately? So as soon as the person is -- walks out of the door 15 of the prison or the jail, if -- if ICE doesn't 16 take the person into custody at that point, 17 18 that's the end of it? 19 MS. WANG: No, Your Honor. We would 20 ask the Court to affirm the Ninth Circuit, which said that a reasonable degree of 21 22 immediacy is appropriate. 23 JUSTICE ALITO: What -- what does --24 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Is that different 25 from --

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JUSTICE ALITO: What does "a 1 2 reasonable degree of immediacy" mean? I mean, 3 let's -- I don't know how many people will be released from criminal custody today in, let's 4 say, the State of California, but I'm sure 5 there are dozens, probably hundreds. 6 I don't 7 know. A lot.

8 How is the federal government going to 9 be able to determine quickly, within 48 hours 10 or any short period of time, whether those 11 individuals would be subject to the mandatory 12 detention requirement of this statute?

California is not going to tell the federal government, look, we're releasing this person and this person is an alien, not a citizen, and this is what the person was convicted of. How are they supposed to do that?

MS. WANG: Congress provided for how they would do that, Justice Alito. Congress was thinking about state and local cooperation at the same time they were enacting Section 1226(c). And what they did was set up mechanisms for state and local cooperation with federal authorities through statutes: through

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Section 1226(d), an adjacent provision; through 1 2 1257(g), also known colloquially as 287(g) 3 agreements; and through 1373, all in Title 8. The major innovation that Congress 4 wanted and got during that same time frame as 5 the '96 Act is described in the Senate report, 6 7 104.48, at pages 15 to 16, an automated 8 fingerprint system. 9 So Congress when it was writing 10 Section 1226(c) knew that they didn't have in 11 place all the pieces needed for this mechanism 12 to work, but they were putting other statutes 13 there. 14 JUSTICE ALITO: So the first part of your answer is that -- that the state -- the 15 state governments, the municipal governments 16 17 are going to provide this information to -- to 18 the Department of Homeland Security? MS. WANG: That is what Congress 19 20 anticipated when it wrote this statute in '96, 21 yes. 2.2 JUSTICE ALITO: And is that what is 23 happening now? MS. WANG: Your Honor, it's largely 24 25 what is happening now. The government cites

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1 some data from 1996. There's also data we've 2 cited that show that, in fiscal years '15 3 through '17, 94 percent of federal requests to 4 state and local jurisdictions were complied 5 with. 6 But -- but I think the larger point,

Justice Alito, is that Congress -- we have to read what Congress was doing in 1996. And whatever's happening today with controversies over so-called sanctuary jurisdictions don't really shed light on what Congress wanted in '96.

13 What does shed light on what Congress 14 wanted in '96 is what they actually enacted. JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, and what they 15 16 enacted was a provision that says the Attorney General, now, the Secretary shall take into 17 custody any alien who satisfies certain 18 requirements when the alien is released. 19 20 MS. WANG: Yes, Your Honor. And to the extent Congress was thinking about state 21 22 and local cooperation, they dealt with that 23 through the other three statutes I mentioned 24 and through automated fingerprinting, and

25 communication between feds and state and local

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1 jurisdictions.

2	I'd note, finally, Justice Alito, that
3	that the Court dealt with similar parallel
4	arguments by the government in the Pereira and
5	Moncrief cases, and the Court said, look, the
6	government can point to these practical
7	considerations, but at the end of the day,
8	we're looking at the words that Congress wrote.
9	And the practical considerations that
10	pertain in the current environment in 19 in
11	sorry, 20 2018 don't really shed light.
12	If yes
13	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, Ms. Wang, on
14	the
15	JUSTICE ALITO: But we have to decide
16	whether "when the alien is released" means, as
17	you say, as the Ninth Circuit said,
18	immediately, within 48 hours, within some
19	reasonable period, or after the alien is
20	released.
21	In simple terms, that's the question
22	before us, right?
23	MS. WANG: Yes, Your Honor. And to
24	answer your question, I believe the Court
25	should affirm the Ninth Circuit, which, again,

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1 said the government should act, shall take the 2 alien into custody with -- with a reasonable degree of immediacy. 3 Now I note that the BIA, the Board of 4 5 Immigration Appeals, in Rojas said 48 hours is outside that time limit. 6 7 We think the same day would be 8 appropriate. We -- we don't think if ICE shows 9 up to pick someone up on their release date and 10 they encounter them in the parking lot or at 11 the bus stop or -- or anywhere the same date, I 12 think that suffices and I think --13 JUSTICE BREYER: What's wrong with 14 when a -- a reasonable time has been in the law since Lord Cooke, I mean, and courts have 15 managed to deal with it. So why wouldn't we 16 17 avoid these problems if we just say, when they 18 say on release, you say a reasonable time? 19 MS. WANG: That's exactly right, Justice Breyer. 20 21 JUSTICE BREYER: I'm not sure the 2.2 Ninth Circuit said that. 23 MS. WANG: That's right. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, is that 24 25 -- I mean, there's a difference between

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"reasonable degree of immediacy" and 1 "reasonable time." I -- I don't see how 2 3 immediate is immediate. You can't have a reasonable degree of immediacy. If it's an 4 hour later, it's not immediate. 5 Now which are you arguing for, 6 7 reasonable degree of immediacy, which strikes 8 me as a very short time, or a reasonable time? Reasonable time would depend, for example, on 9 10 the resources that are available to the 11 Department of Homeland Security. 12 It's not reasonable to -- to -- if -if they don't have enough people to do it, if 13 it takes a week, if it takes -- I don't know 14 what's reasonable in this situation. A month? 15 But a reasonable degree of immediacy 16 17 is something else. That strikes me as a half 18 hour or something, because, otherwise, it's not 19 immediate. 20 MS. WANG: I think --CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So which is 21 22 it, reasonable degree of immediacy or 23 reasonable time? MS. WANG: Your Honor, I think that 24 25 the Ninth Circuit was using the phrase

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"reasonable" with respect to a temporal scope, 1 2 not with respect to whether the government was 3 making reasonable efforts or acting in good faith. 4 5 The statute says "when," which, as the BIA acknowledged, connotes immediacy. 6 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Yeah, but as 8 Judge -- Judge Kayatta pointed out in his 9 opinion, "when" could be -- you know, if you're 10 saying it's not immediate, then who knows? 11 Maybe it's a year. Maybe it's six months. 12 MS. WANG: Well, Your Honor, I think 13 it would certainly not be in any sense of the 14 word "when released," "when the alien is released." A year would not suffice. I think 15 16 Justice Breyer --CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Okay. 17 Well, 18 can you give me a time? 19 MS. WANG: Sure. I think the same day 20 would be fine, Your Honor, and, as I noted, the 21 BIA said in the Rojas case, which the 22 government asks the Court to -- to defer to, 23 that -- that 48 hours is not within the scope 24 of the "when the alien is released" phrase. 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Okay. So it

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seems to me that reasonable time isn't really 1 2 giving any flexibility to the statute if you sav it has to be 48 hours. 3 MS. WANG: Your Honor, we think 48 4 5 hours is too long, as Rojas said. If the 6 Court --7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Okay. So you 8 think it's the same day? 9 MS. WANG: We -- we think it's the 10 same day, Your Honor. If the Court -- I think, 11 just to -- to get to Justice Breyer's question, 12 there's no doubt -- and, again, the government accuses -- accuses us of cherry-picking cases 13 14 in which the gap was long. In fact, the -- the data the 15 16 government has provided in the companion case, 17 or the parallel case, of Gordon in the First 18 Circuit shows that years' delay is the mine run 19 of cases. That data shows that the average 20 delay between criminal custody release and ICE 21 picking the person up is three years. 2.2 JUSTICE KAGAN: In -- in your --23 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Why don't -- why 24 25 JUSTICE KAGAN: In your class, how

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many people have been -- what percentage of the 1 2 class has been out for, let's say -- let's just call it a year plus? 3 MS. WANG: Justice Kagan, we didn't 4 get discovery in this case that's before the 5 We only had the discovery in the Gordon 6 Court. 7 case in the First Circuit. So I unfortunately 8 don't have the numbers for this class. 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Ms. Wang, you --10 JUSTICE KAGAN: What -- what -- what 11 was the answer on that case? 12 MS. WANG: In Gordon, the average delay was three years. The median delay was 13 13 14 months. In -- in that class? 15 JUSTICE KAGAN: In that class, correct, in 16 MS. WANG: the Gordon case. And that was, again, based on 17 18 data the government provided us. JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Ms. Wang, let's 19 20 assume a situation, hypothetical. The 21 government goes to the jail that day. They're 22 told they're going to -- the prisoner's going 23 to get out at 10 in the morning, but he gets 24 out at 7. They then go looking for him, and 25 he's now gone underground, never shows up at

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the parole office, never talks to family or 1 2 friends. They look for him periodically over a period of time. And all of a sudden he's 3 4 rearrested. 5 Do you see that as a different reasonable time situation than what happens 6 7 here, which is that the government -- for 8 example, I understand from the briefs that sometimes they put in a detainer and don't even 9 10 bother to show up? 11 MS. WANG: That's right, Justice 12 Sotomayor. And --13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So, if there is a 14 difference, why are we marking a temporal limit 15 on what "reasonable effort to comply with the statute" might mean? It seems to me Justice 16 17 Breyer's right, that the law is filled with the reasonable effort to comply with the terms of a 18 command, but I don't see how we can set a 19 temporal limit to that reasonable effort in the 20 21 way that you're promoting. 2.2 MS. WANG: I think you can, Justice 23 Sotomayor, because, again, I'm trying to stay 24 true to the words Congress wrote. Congress 25 used the phrase "when the alien is released,"

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which clearly, as everyone acknowledges, has a
 temporal component.

They didn't write a statute that pegged mandatory detention to some kind of good faith or reasonable effort standard for the government.

7 And just to give a counter-example, 8 let's say the government -- and I want to say, first, I agree with you, the record here, the 9 10 amicus brief filed by the Advancement Project 11 and other civil rights groups shows most of 12 these people who are picked up years later, like Mr. Santos Rodriguez, who was detained 13 14 many years after he was released from criminal custody at -- at home, these people are being 15 16 picked up, as Judge Kleinfeld in the Ninth 17 Circuit noted during oral argument, in front of their house, mowing the lawn, at the job, 18 sometimes in an interview that they voluntarily 19 20 appear for with the agency. So it's not a case where the 21 22 government is -- is, you know, dealing with 23 someone who's a fugitive, who's trying to hide. 24 But to get back to your --

25 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Ms. Wang, your --

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1 your --2 MS. WANG: I'm sorry. Yes. JUSTICE GORSUCH: Oh, no, if you go 3 ahead and finish --4 5 MR. WANG: Yeah, I'm sorry. JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- but I've got a 6 7 question after. 8 MS. WANG: I will quickly just get to 9 the --10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Please. 11 MS. WANG: -- cut to the chase. 12 So, Justice Sotomayor, I think the statute Congress wrote speaks in temporal 13 14 terms. And if the government, for whatever reason, doesn't take custody when the alien is 15 16 released, we think same day is fine, then the person gets a hearing under subsection (a). 17 18 And that's the only consequence, as Justice 19 Breyer noted. 20 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. You've hinged 21 a lot on the language, and you've told us to 22 ignore what's happened after 1996 and, in 23 response to Justice Sotomayor, went back to that language, "when the alien is released." 24 25 But, if we're going to focus really

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1 carefully on the language, what do we do about 2 the fact that that is an adverbial phrase? And 3 you're asking us to suggest that it modifies 4 the noun "alien" and limits the class of aliens 5 that are involved.

6 "Alien" is a noun. Adverbs don't 7 usually modify nouns. They usually modify 8 verbs. And the verb here is "shall take into 9 custody."

So why isn't it that the duty, "shall 10 11 take into custody, " is modified by the adverb, 12 "when the alien is released," okay, and so the government's obligation begins at that moment. 13 We know that's when the "shall take into 14 custody" duty starts. But the class of aliens, 15 the who, the noun, has nothing to do with the 16 17 adverb.

18 Now that's the question my fifth grade 19 grammar teacher would have, all right? And so 20 I pose it to you.

21 MS. WANG: Well, I think I'm a 22 grammarian too. The reason why, Justice 23 Gorsuch, is that sometimes adverbial phrases do 24 describe a noun, just as they do in this 25 statute.

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1 So, first, for all the reasons I've 2 already said. I --3 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Usually, they modify the verb. 4 MS. WANG: I'll -- I will --5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So let's start 6 7 there. 8 MS. WANG: -- I will concede that. 9 Right --10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Why should we --11 you're asking us to take a rather unusual view 12 of grammar, one I think I'd have to delve pretty deep in the footnotes to find. 13 14 MS. WANG: It wouldn't be the --JUSTICE GORSUCH: So why would I do 15 16 that? 17 MS. WANG: It wouldn't be the first time Congress tortured grammar, but --18 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: This -- this, I 20 won't argue with you about. 21 MS. WANG: Right. So -- so two -- two 22 reasons, Justice Gorsuch. For the reasons I've 23 already said, I think it's clear from the 24 structure of the statute and the plain language that Congress meant for people -- for -- for 25

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paragraph (2), to -- to describe a subset of 1 2 people who were taken into custody in paragraph 3 (1). In all of paragraph (1), not omitting the flush language, as -- as my friend describes 4 5 it. The second reason is, yes, it may be 6 7 uncommon for an adverbial phrase to describe a 8 noun, but it can happen. Let me give you a hypothetical example that -- that -- that 9 10 tracks this statute. 11 I might tell you in a two-paragraph instruction, number one, harvest the grapes in 12 vineyards A, B, and C when they ripen. 13 14 Paragraph two: Make the wine from the grapes 15 described in paragraph (1). The grapes refer to both the temporal 16 17 component, I want you to harvest them when 18 they're ripe, not when they're over-ripe, not when they're under-ripe, and it's from those 19 20 three vineyards. I'm not sure I -- I 21 JUSTICE GORSUCH: 22 mean, I follow the example, but I'm not sure I 23 buy it, and let me tell you why. And it's a 24 neat example. I commend you. Well done. 25 (Laughter.)

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JUSTICE GORSUCH: I think -- I think 1 2 my fifth grade grammar teacher would love this 3 discussion, but I would say to you or I'd challenge you with this, that, again, there 4 5 you're modifying the verb, when you're supposed to harvest it, okay? And that's the first --6 7 the first section. 8 The second section, you're saying, 9 okay, whatever you've harvested, the grapes 10 that we've described that you have harvested. You still have to have harvested them. 11 So it 12 still depends upon the verb in that second paragraph, the verb plus the noun as referred 13 14 to in the second paragraph. So I'm not sure it gets around the 15 16 problem. Help me out. 17 MS. WANG: I -- I guess, Justice Gorsuch, I think another way to put this is 18 19 that what the government's referring to as an 20 adverbial phrase could be rephrased as an 21 adjective. The hypothetical we gave in our 2.2 brief about the red-headed man wearing the blue 23 jacket when he arrives on the 3:00 train from 24 New York, when he arrives on the 3:00 train 25 from New York is really a characteristic of the

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1 man that's described.

2	In the same way, Your Honor, that I
3	think Congress in paragraph (2), again, by
4	by using the phrase "an alien described in
5	paragraph (1)," not an alien described in
6	paragraph (1)(A) through (D). I think it
7	simply the the the whole, the entirety
8	of paragraph (1) describes the alien in that
9	paragraph (2) phrase. And I think that's
10	that's simply what Congress meant.
11	JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But Congress would
12	have known or thought that it wasn't going to
13	be immediate in many cases, correct?
14	MS. WANG: Yes, Justice Kavanaugh.
14 15	MS. WANG: Yes, Justice Kavanaugh. And the consequence
15	And the consequence
15 16	And the consequence JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And and yet
15 16 17	And the consequence JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And and yet Congress did not put in a time limit, whether
15 16 17 18	And the consequence JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And and yet Congress did not put in a time limit, whether it's reasonable time, as Justice Breyer says,
15 16 17 18 19	And the consequence JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And and yet Congress did not put in a time limit, whether it's reasonable time, as Justice Breyer says, or a year or two years or six months or 48
15 16 17 18 19 20	And the consequence JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And and yet Congress did not put in a time limit, whether it's reasonable time, as Justice Breyer says, or a year or two years or six months or 48 hours.
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	And the consequence JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And and yet Congress did not put in a time limit, whether it's reasonable time, as Justice Breyer says, or a year or two years or six months or 48 hours. And so, when you combine those two
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	And the consequence JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And and yet Congress did not put in a time limit, whether it's reasonable time, as Justice Breyer says, or a year or two years or six months or 48 hours. And so, when you combine those two points, Congress knew it wouldn't be immediate,

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1 statute when Congress, at least as I read it, 2 did not itself do so. 3 How do you respond to that? MS. WANG: Well, Justice Kavanaugh, 4 5 we're not asking you to superimpose a time We're asking you to give meaning to all 6 limit. 7 the words of the statute that Congress enacted, 8 which say --9 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But you're --10 MS. WANG: -- but --11 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I'm sorry to 12 interrupt -- but, when you say "when," you are saying that is, in essence, a time limit of 13 14 immediate, same day, I think you said. 15 And my point is that's very odd when 16 you think about what Congress was doing in 17 1996, because they were well aware that would not happen, A, because of resources, B, because 18 19 they're not learning about it right away. 20 And it would be odd to think, okay, 21 that's what this statute means, even though it 2.2 would often not be effectuated in that way. 23 MS. WANG: Well, Your Honor, I think, 24 again, Congress, first, as Justice Breyer 25 noted, Congress often will have kind of a soft

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1 target when they legislate in this way. 2 Second, remember --JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, the -- a 3 soft target would be what Justice Breyer might 4 5 say, reasonable time. And Congress could have put that in, but -- and maybe we should, 6 7 Justice Breyer's idea, but Congress didn't do 8 that. 9 MS. WANG: I think -- I think, Your 10 Honor, that Congress in saying "when" meant 11 what "when" means in the common sense, a 12 reasonable -- within a reasonable time of the 13 event happening. 14 We go to the dictionary definition --Well, in the 15 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: 16 follow-up on --17 MS. WANG: -- as Judge Breyer noted --18 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- the Chief Justice's point, reasonable immediacy is 19 different from reasonable time in your view? 20 MS. WANG: I think that the Ninth 21 2.2 Circuit used "reasonable degree of immediacy" 23 and "promptly" interchangeably. And as -- as the BIA again said, "when" connotes immediacy. 24 25 As Judge Baron pointed out, "when"

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connotes immediacy. That's the primary 1 2 dictionary definition. But I do -- I do want to say one other thing in response to you, 3 Justice Kavanaugh, and that is remember that 4 subsection (c), mandatory detention without any 5 individual hearing, is written as an exception 6 7 to subsection (a). 8 So the only consequence is you get a 9 hearing. And so the bad ones, as Justice 10 Breyer said, the "baddies," will be detained. 11 And I want to point out that the --12 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: The problem is that Congress did not trust those hearings 13 14 for --MS. WANG: But, Your Honor, the --15 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- a certain 16 17 class, is -- is my understanding, and correct 18 me if I'm wrong about that, but Congress was 19 concerned that those hearings were not working 20 in the way that Congress wanted and, therefore, for a certain class of criminal or terrorist 21 2.2 aliens, said no more. 23 MS. WANG: That's right. But the 24 question here is what's the class, what's the 25 class. Congress wrote the statute to say take

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them into custody when released. Otherwise, 1 2 except as provided in -- in paragraph C, 3 subsection (c). And so the consequence is a 4 hearing. 5 And I wanted to point out that the bipartisan group, a former INS and DHS general 6 7 counsels, said at page 10 of their brief they 8 agree with our reading of the statute, and they say: Detention under Section 1226(a) is not 9 10 meaningfully more burdensome for the 11 government. 12 JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah, and I can see 13 that --14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, they might agree, but every other circuit, four of 15 16 them, and an equally divided First Circuit, 17 disagree? 18 MS. WANG: Well, the -- some of the circuits, Your Honor, deferred to the BIA's 19 20 reading, which the government's asking you 21 partly to defer to and partly not, since they 22 disagree with the BIA's reading of paragraph 23 (1) but not with paragraph (2). And for -- and the Fourth Circuit 24 25 actually read the -- the Rojas decision

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incorrectly and deferred on the "when release"
 ground.

I think that the -- the First Circuit panel in Judge Baron and the Ninth Circuit below got this right. That reading gives full meaning to every word in the statute. It makes sense of the two-paragraph structure and the fact that (c) is written as an exception to (a).

10 And I want to point out that, at the 11 time Congress wrote this statute, this Court 12 had never before approved of civil detention, 13 executive detention, without individualized 14 hearings on flight risk and danger.

15 And so the Court should -- Congress 16 should be presumed to have written that 17 provision narrowly. As -- as the Ninth Circuit 18 and -- and Judge Baron pointed out, and I think as Judge Breyer was alluding to, it's one thing 19 20 for the Court to say in Demore that the 21 government can constitutionally apply a 2.2 categorical and irrebuttable presumption --23 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Is that 24 presumption based on what we think was really 25 going through Congress's mind at the time, or

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is it based on a constitutional overlay? 1 2 Because what was really going through 3 Congress's time in 1996 was harshness on this Is that not right? 4 topic. 5 MS. WANG: Congress was -- was certainly trying to deal with what they 6 7 considered to be a problem with non-citizens 8 who have committed crimes. The question, 9 again, is who were they targeting with this 10 statute? 11 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Right. 12 MS. WANG: And I think that the words 13 that Congress chose are narrow ones. Thev 14 clearly say that people had to be in criminal custody under these four grounds, and there's a 15 serious constitutional problem if you buy the 16 17 government's reading. 18 My friend --I can see the equities 19 JUSTICE ALITO: when the alien has been free for a number of 20 21 years. But Congress, wisely or not, thought 2.2 that this class of aliens was dangerous and 23 they should not be trusted. Bail hearings were 24 unreliable. So you would say that this statute

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requires their detention as soon as they get

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1 out. 2 Now why -- if that's the case, and it -- it obviously is, why would Congress think 3 differently about someone who's been out for a 4 5 week? MS. WANG: For two reasons, Your 6 7 Honor. The first is the legislative history, 8 especially as -- as outlined in the members of Congress dark green brief, makes it clear. 9 10 Congress wanted ICE, then INS, to 11 focus limited capacity, limited capacity to 12 detain, on people already in criminal custody 13 who would otherwise be released. They said, in 14 other words, don't spread yourself thin. My friend said it takes more effort to 15 That's 16 go find people in the community. 17 exactly right. And that's the problem Congress 18 _ _ 19 JUSTICE BREYER: They face that --20 MS. WANG: -- wanted to --21 JUSTICE BREYER: -- what would you 22 think of -- I see the problem of reasonable 23 time, but Demore concerned a case where the 24 Court thought that these people were detained 25 without bail hearings for less than six months.

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Zadvydas interprets a silent statute 1 2 to imply a six-month limitation on other but related holding of aliens. So what would you 3 think of reading this statute in order, in my 4 5 opinion, not to violate a principle that goes back to if not -- not the Magna Carta, at least 6 7 to Blackstone, that we read this statute the 8 same way? 9 There it is. We have a degree of 10 clarity. We say -- we use -- we go to 11 Zadvydas, and we go to the history of bail and 12 we say, all right, six months. 13 MS. WANG: Your Honor -- may I finish? 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure. MS. WANG: Your Honor, I think that, 15 Justice Breyer, the six months would be an 16 17 extraordinary amount of time and just gets a 18 little far afield from the words Congress 19 chose. 20 And I remind you that the Board of 21 Immigration Appeals said 48 hours was too long. 22 So, if the Court wishes to draw a bright line, 23 as you did in Zadvydas, I think that would be 24 fine. But, really, we should follow the words 25 Congress wrote.

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1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, Ms. 2 Wang. 3 Four minutes, Mr. Tripp. MS. WANG: Thank you, Mr. Chief 4 5 Justice. REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF ZACHARY D. TRIPP 6 7 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS 8 MR. TRIPP: Thank you. Just a couple 9 of points. 10 The key question here is not the 11 meaning of "when." It's who are the aliens 12 described in paragraph (1)? And the answer is 13 it's an alien, any alien with the requisite 14 criminal history. The time in is really not 15 relevant. 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It just begs the 17 question, because they didn't say sub -paragraph (1), A through D. They said the 18 19 entire paragraph. 20 MR. TRIPP: That's right. But as --21 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And why isn't the 22 verb, the adverb, part of the noun in that situation? Because, if they wanted to limit it 23 to that class of A to D, that's the easiest 24 25 thing to have done.

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1 MR. TRIPP: Because --2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Your counsel is -your adversary's right, if they wanted to limit 3 1226(a) to (c)(2), they would have said (c)(2). 4 MR. TRIPP: So a couple of responses, 5 but I think the main one is that the phrase 6 7 "when the alien is released" does not modify 8 who the alien is. It takes as a given he's 9 already been fully described. And instead that 10 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, it is -- it is 12 _ _ 13 MR. TRIPP: -- just modifies the 14 duties of the Secretary. 15 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're begging the question. When he's released identifies the 16 alien that the statute is looking at. 17 18 MR. TRIPP: I -- I --19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You by yourself --20 you say that there's a command that you have to 21 follow to try to take these people into 22 custody. You say there's a command to do it, 23 but you don't have to do it. You can choose not to do it. I don't know what kind of 24 25 command that is. But you -- you at least

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1 recognize that there's a sense of urgency, you 2 should do this. 3 So why doesn't that describe the noun? MR. TRIPP: So I -- I think three 4 5 responses I'll just --JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: 6 The noun and the 7 verb, I should say. 8 MR. TRIPP: So, first, we just don't think it modifies who the alien is at all. 9 10 Second, even if you think that it 11 does, and there is some kind of timing 12 requirement, this Court has said again and again and again that it's better to be late 13 14 than never. And then A drives us home, right, 15 because it has two sentences: The first is about arrest and the second is about custody. 16 And it prohibits -- it has the exception for 17 18 And the only provision in (c) that talks (C). about release is (c)(2). And that's the one --19 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: If -- if --20 21 MR. TRIPP: -- that categorically 22 prohibits release. 23 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: -- if reasonable 24 amount of time, Justice Breyer's suggestion, 25 were part of a ruling, what do you think is a

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reasonable amount of time or presumptively 1 2 reasonable? I know that's not your preferred position, but do you have thoughts on that? 3 MR. TRIPP: I -- I think our -- our 4 5 main answer is that would be really profoundly problematic because these gaps in custody are 6 7 often very long. And -- and the basic reason 8 that --9

9 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: So, therefore, you 10 would say a long period is a reasonable period, 11 but do you have any more meat you want to put 12 on those bones of what a reasonable period of 13 time would be, given all the circumstances?

14 MR. TRIPP: I guess I -- I would say that, I mean, what -- what often happens is, 15 16 you know, once -- once an alien gets out, so I 17 -- I think this comes across in the -- in the brief, the alien is often released before DHS 18 19 is even aware that that's going to happen, is 20 even aware that the person is one of these aliens. 21

And once the person's out, it's going to be much more difficult to track them down. DHS might not know where they -- where they live, how to find them. And so, you know, what

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happens sometimes is that DHS doesn't become 1 2 aware of them again until years later when they get arrested on a different offense. 3 And so I -- I think it's difficult for 4 5 me to give content to that. I think the force of that argument that, you know, maybe it would 6 7 be different after the passage --8 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: The problem is 9 that --10 MR. TRIPP: -- of some long period of 11 time --12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- if that's the 13 only way you come -- that -- become aware of 14 them, they get arrested, you can hold them. You can do what you should have done the first 15 time, which is to --16 17 MR. TRIPP: But -- but --18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- put a detainer 19 on them. MR. TRIPP: -- under -- I 20 21 mean, so with Mr. Mony Preap, we -- we did 22 arrest him just as he got out the second time, 23 but that second offense didn't trigger 1226(c). 24 And so he's arguing that because he was out for 25 years and years before he got arrested the

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second time, that he's off the hook. And I 1 2 think --3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I quess the problem that I have is you're -- you're pitting 4 5 two groups of people. I'm not nay-saying that there are people who are released on bail who 6 7 are dangerous and commit -- and commit serious 8 crimes. 9 But, if I look at the numbers that do 10 that, they're very, very small compared to the 11 people who are released on bail and don't 12 commit more crimes or the number of people who get cancellation of removal for various 13 14 reasons. At what point do we constitutionally 15 16 ignore that? We ignore that there's a whole 17 class, a huge class of people who are being 18 held where no one would consider them 19 dangerous? Or --20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You may answer 21 briefly. 2.2 MR. TRIPP: So none of those numbers 23 are in the record and I -- I don't think we 24 would agree with them. But just more 25 fundamentally, this is a statutory

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interpretation case. I think the statute is unambiguous. (c)(2) reaches anybody with the requisite criminal history, and every one of Respondents has it, so we're asking the Court to reverse. б CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel. The case is submitted. (Whereupon, at 11:07 a.m., the case was submitted.)

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