

Marc Van Der Hout (Cal. Bar #80778)  
Johnny Sinodis (Cal. Bar #290402)  
Oona Cahill (Cal. Bar #354525)  
**VAN DER HOUT LLP**  
360 Post Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
Telephone: (415) 981-3000  
Facsimile: (415) 981-3003  
Email: ndca@vblaw.com

Conor T. Fitzpatrick (Mich. Bar #P78981)\*  
Daniel A. Zahn (D.C. Bar #90027403)\*  
**FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL  
RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION (FIRE)**  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 340  
Washington, DC 20003  
Telephone: (215) 717-3473  
Email: conor.fitzpatrick@thefire.org  
Email: daniel.zahn@thefire.org

Colin P. McDonell (Cal. Bar #289099)  
**FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL  
RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION (FIRE)**  
510 Walnut Street, Suite 900  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Telephone: (215) 717-3473  
Email: colin.mcdonell@thefire.org

\*Pro hac vice application pending

*Counsel for Plaintiffs*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN JOSE DIVISION**

THE STANFORD DAILY PUBLISHING  
CORPORATION, JANE DOE, and JOHN  
DOE,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

MARCO RUBIO, in his official capacity as  
Secretary of State, and

KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity as  
Secretary of Homeland Security,

*Defendants.*

Case No. 5:25-cv-06618

**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR  
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND  
PRELIMINARY FACTUAL FINDINGS  
AND LEGAL CONCLUSIONS**

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**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION**

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the nearest available date at which counsel may be heard, Plaintiffs The Stanford Daily Corporation, Jane Doe, and John Doe (“Plaintiffs”) will move for a preliminary injunction against Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem (“Defendants”) to enjoin Secretary Rubio from revoking the visas and other documentation of Plaintiffs and their noncitizen members under 8 U.S.C. § 1201(i) based on protected speech and to render preliminary factual findings and legal conclusions on other issues. The Motion is based on this Notice of Motion, the accompanying Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the accompanying declaration and exhibits, all pleadings and papers filed in this action, and such additional papers and arguments as may be presented.

**MOTION’S SCOPE**

This motion seeks a preliminary injunction preventing Secretary of State Marco Rubio from revoking the visas and other documentation of Plaintiffs and their noncitizen<sup>1</sup> members under 8 U.S.C. § 1201(i) (the “Revocation Provision”) based on protected speech and preventing Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem from effectuating deportation proceedings thereupon.<sup>2</sup>

Plaintiffs also challenge the provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act allowing the Secretary of State to render a noncitizen deportable for protected speech if the Secretary “personally determines” that the noncitizen’s activity “compromise[s] a compelling United States foreign policy interest.” 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182(a)(3)(C)(iii), 1227(a)(4)(C)(i) (the “Deportation Provision”). But under the statute, only the Supreme Court can enjoin provisions in part IV of the INA, which includes the Deportation Provision but not the Revocation Provision. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(f)(1). Section 1252(f), however, does not deprive lower courts of the ability to grant declaratory relief regarding those provisions. *Biden v. Texas*, 597 U.S. 785, 798–801 (2022).

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<sup>1</sup> In this brief, “noncitizen” refers to noncitizens lawfully present in the United States.

<sup>2</sup> In this brief, “protected speech” refers to activity that, if a U.S. citizen engaged in it, the First Amendment would protect it but excludes speech subject to unique criminal prohibitions for noncitizens, such as donating to election campaigns. *See, e.g.*, 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a) (prohibiting certain noncitizens from contributing to federal, state, and local elections).

1 Accordingly, Plaintiffs request (1) a preliminary injunction against the Revocation Provision  
2 and (2) preliminary factual findings and legal conclusions that the Revocation and Deportation  
3 Provisions are unconstitutional as applied to noncitizens' protected speech. To facilitate this second  
4 form of relief, Plaintiffs intend to file, after conferring with opposing counsel, a motion under Rule  
5 65(a)(2) to consolidate the hearing on this Motion with the trial on the merits.

## 6 INTRODUCTION

7 It is difficult to imagine a sentence more incompatible with American liberty than "Watch  
8 what you say, or else." That is because the First Amendment guards free speech by stripping the  
9 government of the power to subject speakers to disfavored treatment simply because of their views.  
10 The United States understands liberty as an unalienable right, not a privilege bestowed to a select  
11 few by a kindly king or omnipotent parliament. Our First Amendment, therefore, does not  
12 "acknowledge[] any distinction between citizens and resident aliens." *Kwong Hai Chew v. Colding*,  
13 344 U.S. 590, 596 n.5 (1953) (internal quotation marks omitted). So when Secretary of State Marco  
14 Rubio invokes statutory authority to revoke the visas and trigger deportation of lawfully present  
15 noncitizens for expressing anti-American and anti-Israel views, he betrays not just the First  
16 Amendment, but the core American ideal of liberty as an unalienable right. Prompt action from this  
17 Court is needed to restore that ideal.

18 Since March 2025, Secretary Rubio and the Trump administration have waged an assault on  
19 free speech, targeting international students and faculty for deportation based on obviously protected  
20 speech like peacefully attending protests and authoring editorials. Their attack is casting a chill over  
21 noncitizens. At Plaintiff Stanford Daily, which publishes the independent student newspaper at  
22 Stanford University, staff writers on student visas are withholding or withdrawing articles about the  
23 war in Gaza and declining reporting assignments related to pro-Palestinian campus protests, worried  
24 that writing the wrong thing will endanger their immigration status. Plaintiff Jane Doe fears the  
25 same after her protected speech landed her on the Canary Mission database of pro-Palestinian  
26 individuals and organizations, which the Trump administration uses as a blacklist to decide whom  
27 to target. And Plaintiff John Doe fears adverse immigration action because he argues positions and  
28

1 has used expressions Secretary Rubio and the Trump administration deem anti-American and anti-  
2 Israel and have cited as permissible grounds for deportation.

3 Secretary Rubio and the Trump administration rely on two provisions of the Immigration  
4 and Nationality Act for their asserted power to censor noncitizens' speech. The first allows the  
5 Secretary to render a noncitizen deportable if he "personally determines" their *lawful* "beliefs,  
6 statements, or associations" "compromise a compelling United States foreign policy interest."  
7 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182(a)(3)(C)(iii), 1227(a)(4)(C)(i) (hereinafter the "Deportation Provision"). The  
8 second allows the Secretary to, "at any time, in his discretion, revoke" a "visa or other  
9 documentation." 8 U.S.C. § 1201(i) (hereinafter the "Revocation Provision").

10 Both violate the First Amendment as applied to protected speech, which flatly prohibits  
11 government officials from "us[ing] the power of the State to punish or suppress disfavored  
12 expression." *NRA v. Vullo*, 602 U.S. 175, 188 (2024). And that is precisely what the Deportation  
13 and Revocation Provisions allow Secretary Rubio and the Trump administration to do when applied  
14 to speech: abuse statutory immigration powers to punish and suppress disfavored viewpoints  
15 regarding American and Israeli foreign policy.

16 James Madison explained that because noncitizens "owe on one hand, a temporary  
17 obedience" to American laws, "they are entitled in return, to their protection and advantage." James  
18 Madison, The Report of 1800 (Jan. 7, 1800), *reprinted by* Nat'l Archives: Founders Online,  
19 <https://perma.cc/BF76-6LCD>. That is why the Supreme Court made clear the First Amendment's  
20 protection for "[f]reedom of speech and of press is accorded aliens residing in this country." *Bridges*  
21 *v. Wixon*, 326 U.S. 135, 148 (1945). America's "First Amendment does not speak equivocally. It  
22 prohibits any law 'abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.' It must be taken as a command  
23 of the broadest scope that explicit language, read in the context of a liberty-loving society, will  
24 allow." *Bridges v. California*, 314 U.S. 252, 263 (1941) (invalidating noncitizen's criminal  
25 conviction on First Amendment grounds).

26 Our liberty-loving society does not countenance midnight raids for thoughtcrimes or  
27 detention and banishment for unpopular opinions. As the Ninth Circuit explained, if lawfully present  
28 aliens cannot assert the First Amendment to defend their immigration status, "then their First

Amendment rights in other contexts are a nullity, because the omnipresent threat of deportation would permanently chill their expressive and associational activities.” *Am.-Arab Anti-Discrimination Comm. v. Reno (AADC)*, 70 F.3d 1045, 1065–66 (9th Cir. 1995). This Court should restore the constitutional order and enter a preliminary injunction prohibiting use of the Revocation Provision to revoke the visas of Plaintiffs or their noncitizen members based on protected speech.

### BACKGROUND

President Donald Trump campaigned on a platform of deporting lawfully present noncitizens for protected speech, promising to throw out “any student that protests.” Declaration of Conor Fitzpatrick (“Fitzpatrick Decl.”) Ex. A. He pledged to revoke visas of “antisemitic” students and “aggressively deport” noncitizens with “jihadist sympathies,” including “radical anti-American[s].” Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. B. Now in power, his administration is using the Deportation and Revocation Provisions to do just that.

#### **Secretary Rubio and the Trump administration abuse the INA to target protected speech.**

On January 20, 2025, the President issued an executive order instructing the government to ensure resident noncitizens “do not bear hostile attitudes” toward the United States or “advocate for” or “support” “foreign terrorists and other threats to our national security.” Exec. Order No. 14,161, 90 Fed. Reg. 8451, 8451 (Jan. 20, 2025). Ten days later, the White House committed to revoking the visas of and deporting “ Hamas Sympathizers,” including those who “joined in the pro-jihadist protests.” Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. C. The administration considers “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” to express support for Hamas and to thus justify action under the Revocation or Deportation Provisions. Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. D, vol. 1, 32–35. Same with calling Israel “an apartheid state” or “criticizing Israel’s actions in Gaza.” *Id.*

In early March 2025, Department of Homeland Security agents arrested Mahmoud Khalil—a participant in peaceful pro-Palestinian advocacy at Columbia University—and transported him to an immigration jail in rural Louisiana. *Khalil v. Joyce*, 771 F. Supp. 3d 268, 275–77 (S.D.N.Y. 2025). Proceedings followed under the Deportation Provision, which authorizes the Secretary of State to trigger deportation proceedings against noncitizens “whose . . . activities in the United States the Secretary of State has reasonable ground to believe would have potentially serious adverse

foreign policy consequences for the United States.” 8 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(4)(C)(i). That authority is subject to “[t]he exceptions” to the Secretary of State’s authority to exclude noncitizens from the United States on foreign policy grounds, *id.* § 1227(a)(4)(C)(ii) (incorporating *id.* §§ 1182(a)(3)(C)(ii)–(iii)), which provide that a noncitizen “shall not be excludable [for protected speech], unless the Secretary of State personally determines that the alien’s admission would compromise a compelling United States foreign policy interest,” *id.* § 1182(a)(3)(C)(iii). The Deportation Provision, therefore, allows the Secretary to trigger deportation proceedings against lawful noncitizens for protected speech if he “personally determines” their activities “compromise a compelling United States foreign policy interest.” *Id.* §§ 1182(a)(3)(C)(iii), 1227(a)(4)(C)(i).

For Mr. Khalil, Secretary Rubio claimed “condoning anti-Semitic conduct and disruptive protests in the United States would severely undermine th[e] significant foreign policy objective” of “champion[ing] core American interests.” *Khalil v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-01963, 2025 WL 1514713, at \*7 (D.N.J. May 28, 2025). The day after Mr. Khalil’s arrest, Secretary Rubio announced the federal government “will be revoking the visas and/or green cards of Hamas supporters in America so they can be deported.” Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. E. President Trump pledged that Khalil’s arrest was the “first” of “many to come,” and that his administration would deport any noncitizen student involved in “pro-terrorist, anti-Semitic, anti-American activity.” Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. F.

In mid-April, masked DHS agents entered the naturalization interview of Mohsen Mahdawi—a legal permanent resident who had been a critic of Israel’s military campaign in Gaza—and arrested him. *Mahdawi v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-389, 2025 WL 1243135, at \*2 (D. Vt. Apr. 30, 2025). As with Mr. Khalil, Secretary Rubio cited the Deportation Provision as the basis for Mr. Mahdawi’s arrest and deportation proceedings, bizarrely alleging the advocacy of a single international student hindered the United States government’s ability to bring peace to the Middle East. Resp. in Opp. to Mot. for Release Ex. A at 2, *Mahdawi*, 2025 WL 1243135 (No. 25-dv-389), ECF No. 42-1.

Weeks prior, six plain-clothed DHS federal officers surrounded Tufts University PhD student Rümeyza Öztürk—a lawfully present noncitizen pursuant to an F-1 student visa—outside her home, handcuffed her, and dragged her into an unmarked vehicle. *Ozturk v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-

374, 2025 WL 1145250, at \*2 (D. Vt. Apr. 18, 2025), *amended sub nom.*, *Ozturk v. Hyde*, 136 F.4th 382 (2d Cir. 2025). Her offense? During her time at Tufts, Ms. Öztürk engaged in peaceful pro-Palestinian advocacy and co-authored an editorial in the student newspaper urging Tufts to, among other things, recognize a genocide in Gaza and divest from Israeli companies. *Id.* at \*1; *see also* Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. G. So Secretary Rubio revoked her visa without notice, DHS ambushed Ms. Öztürk, and then, as with Mr. Khalil, immediately transferred her to an immigration jail in remote Louisiana to await deportation proceedings. *Ozturk*, 2025 WL 1145250, at \*2–3.

Secretary Rubio relied on the Revocation Provision to revoke Ms. Öztürk’s visa. Verified Compl. ¶ 57. The Revocation Provision, 8 U.S.C. § 1201(i), provides that “[a]fter the issuance of a visa or other documentation to any alien, the ... Secretary of State may at any time, in his discretion, revoke such visa or other documentation.” It places no constraints on the Secretary’s discretion and no guardrails against revoking visas based on protected speech.

Federal courts have ordered the release of Mr. Khalil, Ms. Öztürk, and Mr. Mahdawi during the pendency of their deportation proceedings. *See Ozturk v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-374, 2025 WL 1420540, at \*6 (D. Vt. May 16, 2025) (concluding “the government has neither rebutted the argument that retaliation for Ms. Ozturk’s op-ed was the motivation for her detention nor identified another specific reason for Ms. Ozturk’s detention”); *Mahdawi*, 2025 WL 1243135, at \*8 (concluding “Mr. Mahdawi has raised a substantial claim that the Government arrested him to stifle speech with which it disagrees”); *Khalil*, 2025 WL 1514713, at \*52 (concluding the Deportation Provision was likely unconstitutionally vague as applied to Khalil), *appeal docketed*, No. 25-2162 (3d Cir. June 23, 2025); *Khalil v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-01963 (D.N.J. June 20, 2025), ECF No. 316 (ordering Khalil’s release), *appeal docketed*, No. 25-2162 (3d Cir. June 23, 2025).

Secretary Rubio and the Trump administration promised more visa revocations for protected speech. On May 8, 2025, DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin announced that noncitizens “pushing Hamas propaganda,” “glorifying terrorists,” or otherwise engaging in “anti-American” conduct “can expect your visa will be revoked.” Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. H. And at a May 21, 2025, congressional hearing, Secretary Rubio, responding to a question about the revocation of Rûmeysa Öztürk’s visa based on her speech, said that he “proudly” revoked her visa, that he revokes visas



every day, and he would continue revoking visas based on expression. House Foreign Affairs Committee Republicans, *Secretary Rubio Testifies Before the House Foreign Affairs Committee: Protecting American Interests*, at 2:55:50–2:56:20 (YouTube, streamed May 21, 2025), <https://perma.cc/MB5T-VBC9>.

**The administration’s targeting of noncitizens’ protected speech chills Plaintiffs’ expression.**

Plaintiff Jane Doe is a graduate of a United States university, resides in the United States lawfully pursuant to her admission on an F-1 student visa, and was a member of a pro-Palestinian student group. She published pro-Palestinian/anti-Israel commentary online, including accusing Israel of committing “genocide” and perpetuating “apartheid.” She has also used the slogan “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” and criticized American foreign policy, particularly its relationship with Israel. In late 2023 or early 2024, Jane Doe appeared in a profile on the anonymously run Canary Mission website,<sup>3</sup> which a senior official in ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations unit testified his team uses to generate “reports” on individuals that the State Department relies on to decide, among other things, “visa revocations.” Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. J, vol. 2, 101, 110.<sup>4</sup> Mahmoud Khalil, Rümeysa Öztürk, and Mohsen Mahdawi—all targeted by Secretary Rubio with the Revocation and Deportation Provisions—appeared on Canary Mission. Fitzpatrick Decl. Exs. L, M, N. Since March 2025, fearing Secretary Rubio will revoke her visa under the Revocation Provision or render her deportable under the Deportation Provision, Jane Doe has refrained from publishing and voicing her true opinions regarding Palestine and Israel and has deactivated her social media accounts to guard against retaliation for past expression.

Similarly, Plaintiff John Doe is a graduate of a major United States university and is lawfully present in the United States pursuant to his admission on an F-1 student visa, working in journalism. After the October 7, 2023, attack and Israel’s counter-offensive, he attended pro-Palestinian protests and published pro-Palestinian/anti-Israel commentary online. At protests, he participated in chants

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<sup>3</sup> Canary Mission’s *raison d’être* is to publish information about individuals and organizations that, in its judgment, “promote hatred of the USA, Israel and Jews on North American college campuses and beyond.” Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. I.

<sup>4</sup> The official also testified that “most” student protestors DHS asked ICE to investigate “came from” Canary Mission. Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. K, vol. 1, 44.

including “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” and accusing Israel of committing “genocide.” Verified Compl. ¶ 105. After Secretary Rubio and the Trump administration began targeting lawfully present noncitizen students, the professor for whom John Doe served as a teaching assistant told him to reconsider engaging in protected advocacy related to Israel and Palestine due to potential danger to his immigration status. He followed that advice, refraining from publishing an article criticizing Israel. He has resumed engaging in protected pro-Palestinian/anti-Israel commentary, including accusing Israel of committing genocide as well as commentary critical of American foreign policy and now faces the threat of visa revocation and deportation.

Plaintiff The Stanford Daily Publishing Corporation is a nonprofit that publishes *The Stanford Daily*, the independent, student-run newspaper at Stanford University. Stanford Daily “strives to serve the Stanford community with relevant, unbiased journalism and provides its editorial, tech and business staffs with unparalleled educational opportunities.” Verified Compl. ¶ 68. But the government’s use of the Revocation and Deportation Provisions to target noncitizens’ protected speech is thwarting Stanford Daily’s journalistic and educational activities by chilling its noncitizen writers, reporters, and editors.

For example, in March 2025, a lawfully present noncitizen editor on staff decided to quit Stanford Daily out of fear of adverse immigration consequences if they were associated with articles about Israel or Palestine. Verified Compl. ¶ 73. As another example, a lawfully present noncitizen writer signed up to cover a story about a vigil that brought together Jewish and Palestinian families to honor those who died in the conflict in Gaza. Verified Compl. ¶ 75. The writer attended, took notes, and interviewed sources. Verified Compl. ¶ 75. But due to fear of adverse immigration consequences, the student decided against publishing any article about the event. Verified Compl. ¶ 75. Other Stanford Daily contributors have asked the paper to take down their past articles about the Middle East, fearing they would have their visas revoked or be deported if they came to the attention of Trump administration officials. Verified Compl. ¶¶ 77, 79, 81, 83, 86.

### LEGAL STANDARD

Plaintiffs are entitled to a preliminary injunction because (1) they are likely to succeed on the merits of their claims, (2) they are suffering irreparable harm to their First Amendment rights



absent the preliminary injunction due to self-censorship and the threat of adverse immigration action based on protected speech, (3) the balance of equities favors free speech over government censorship, and (4) a preliminary injunction advances the public’s interest in open debate and protecting a flourishing marketplace of ideas. *See Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008) (setting out preliminary injunction factors). Likelihood of success on the merits is “especially important when a plaintiff alleges a constitutional violation and injury,” as it “usually demonstrates [a plaintiff] is suffering irreparable harm” and “also tips the public interest sharply in [a plaintiff’s] favor.” *Baird v. Bonta*, 81 F.4th 1036, 1040 (9th Cir. 2023).<sup>5</sup> In a constitutional challenge, therefore, courts “may not deny a preliminary injunction” when the movant establishes the four factors; it must uphold “its obligation to enforce constitutional rights.” *Id.* at 1041 (cleaned up).

Plaintiffs are alternatively entitled to a preliminary injunction under the Ninth Circuit’s “sliding scale” variant of the *Winter* test because (1) their claims raise serious merits questions, (2) they are suffering irreparable injury to their First Amendment rights, (3) the balance of hardships tips sharply in favor of free speech, and (4) the public interest always supports protecting constitutional rights. *See All. for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1135 (9th Cir. 2011) (setting out “serious questions” preliminary injunction factors). The serious-merits-questions standard is “a lesser showing than likelihood of success on the merits.” *All. for the Wild Rockies v. Pena*, 865 F.3d 1211, 1217 (9th Cir. 2017). And because the Plaintiffs raise serious First Amendment questions, that alone “is irreparable injury sufficient to merit the grant of relief,” “compels a finding that the balance of hardships tips sharply in Plaintiffs’ favor,” and is enough to trigger “the significant public interest in upholding First Amendment principles.” *Am. Beverage Ass’n v. City & Cnty. of San Francisco*, 916 F.3d 749, 758 (9th Cir. 2019) (en banc) (cleaned up).

### ARGUMENT

Our Nation has been here before. In 1798, fearful that Irish and French immigrants were importing the spirit of the French Revolution, the Federalists in Congress passed, and President John Adams signed, the Alien Friends Act. It authorized the President to deport any noncitizen he deemed

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<sup>5</sup> When the government is the opposing party, “the last two *Winter* factors ‘merge.’” *Baird*, 81 F.4th at 1040 (quoting *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418, 435 (2009)).

1 “dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States.” An Act Concerning Aliens, ch. 58, § 1, 1  
 2 Stat. 570, 571 (1798) (expired Mar. 3, 1801). Secretary of State Thomas Pickering urged Adams to  
 3 use the law to deport Adams’ critics and noncitizens with French sympathies. Charles Slack,  
 4 *Liberty’s First Crisis: Adams, Jefferson, and the Misfits Who Saved Free Speech* 191 (2015).

5 As Justice Gorsuch explained, the Alien Friends Act was “one of the most notorious laws in  
 6 our country’s history,” “widely condemned as unconstitutional,” and “may have cost the Federalist  
 7 Party its existence.” *Sessions v. Dimaya*, 584 U.S. 148, 185 (2018) (Gorsuch, J., concurring in part  
 8 and in judgment). James Madison called the law a “monster that must for ever disgrace its parents.”  
 9 Letter from James Madison to Thomas Jefferson (May 20, 1798), *reprinted by* Nat’l Archives:  
 10 Founders Online, <https://perma.cc/QU5Q-CRAU>. Madison compared the power the law bestowed  
 11 on the president to that of a king: “Could a power be well given in terms less definite, less particular,  
 12 and less precise. ... They leave everything to the President. His will is the law.” Madison, The  
 13 Report of 1800, *supra*. The law expired on its own terms in 1801 (along with its sister statute, the  
 14 Sedition Act), and the backlash helped usher Jefferson into the presidency.

15 But 225 years later, the spirit of the Alien Friends Act rises from the grave. Yet again we  
 16 have a President and Secretary of State fueled by a belief that the Constitution permits banishing  
 17 peaceful noncitizens from our shores for voicing “dangerous” ideas. Yet again they are wrong.

18 Allowing the Secretary to render noncitizens deportable whose views, in his subjective  
 19 judgment, compromise America’s foreign policy interests places liberty in mortal peril and America  
 20 among unlikely bedfellows for speech rights. China’s Constitution provides that “when exercising  
 21 their freedoms and rights, citizens ... shall not undermine the interests of the state.” Xianfa art. 51  
 22 (1982) [<https://perma.cc/D8DG-5RSH>]. Russia’s laws, too, permit the “[r]estriction of access to  
 23 information” in the name of protecting “morality,” its system of government, and the “security of  
 24 the state.” Federal Law of the Russian Federation on Information, Informational Technologies and  
 25 the Protection of Information [Russian Federation Collection of Legislation] 2006, No. 31, Item  
 26 3448 [<https://perma.cc/GW9F-C78F>]. As China’s and Russia’s experiences show, giving the  
 27 government the power to censor when it believes speech threatens the government’s interests is a  
 28 loophole with infinite diameter. It has no place in America’s tradition of individual liberty.

America has charted a different course than the world’s censorial regimes. *See Am. Booksellers Ass’n, Inc. v. Hudnut*, 771 F.2d 323, 329 (7th Cir. 1985) (contrasting the United States with “[m]ost governments of the world” that “suppress[] critical speech”), *aff’d mem.*, 475 U.S. 1001 (1986). In 1801, after defeating Adams and his Alien and Sedition Acts, President Jefferson used his inaugural address to defend the free speech rights of those who called for dissolution of the Union, proclaiming, “If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve this Union, or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated, where reason is left free to combat it.” Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address (Mar. 4, 1801), *reprinted by Nat’l Archives: Founders Online*, <https://perma.cc/647Z-7LP9>. Little could be more dangerous to the interests of a fledgling nation than calling for its extinction, yet our commitment to free speech remained. So it should today, 224 years later.

**I. Plaintiffs have standing to challenge the Revocation and Deportation Provisions.**

**A. The Doe Plaintiffs have individual standing.**

The Doe Plaintiffs can show injury in fact, a causal connection between it and the Revocation and Deportation Provisions that authorize the government to revoke these Plaintiffs’ legal status and deport them for protected speech, and that it is likely the Court can redress that with a favorable decision, so thus have standing to challenge the statutes. *Susan B. Anthony List v. Driehaus*, 573 U.S. 149, 157–58 (2014). Notably, a plaintiff need not subject themselves to arrest (or deportation) to challenge a censorial law but rather “satisfies the injury-in-fact requirement where he alleges an intention to engage in ... conduct arguably affected with a constitutional interest, but proscribed by a statute, and there exists a credible threat of prosecution thereunder.” *Id.* at 159 (internal quotation marks omitted). In First Amendment cases, “the Supreme Court has endorsed” a “hold your tongue and challenge now” approach that enables proceeding against laws whose potential enforcement causes plaintiffs to self-censor. *Cal. Pro-Life Council, Inc. v. Getman*, 328 F.3d 1088, 1094 (9th Cir. 2003) (internal quotation marks omitted). The Ninth Circuit has made clear that when a “threatened enforcement effort implicates First Amendment rights,” a credible threat of enforcement “tilts dramatically toward a finding of standing.” *LSO, Ltd. v. Stroh*, 205 F.3d 1146, 1155 (9th Cir. 2000).

1 The Doe Plaintiffs have standing. They engaged in pro-Palestinian advocacy, including  
 2 accusing Israel of committing “genocide” and perpetuating “apartheid,” as well as chanting “from  
 3 the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.” That is precisely the type of protected speech Secretary  
 4 Rubio and others in the Trump administration cite as a supposedly lawful basis to revoke other non-  
 5 citizen students’ visas and initiate deportation proceedings. Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. D, vol. 1, 32–35.  
 6 And Jane Doe’s advocacy landed her on the Canary Mission watchlist, which the Trump  
 7 administration confirmed is a primary resource for deciding whom to flag for reporting to the State  
 8 Department for visa revocation and potential deportation. Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. J, vol. 2, 101, 110.  
 9 As a result, Jane Doe is aggressively self-censoring, deactivating her primary social media account  
 10 and refraining from public commentary about Gaza. John Doe is cognizant of the risk, but intends  
 11 to continue his advocacy, placing him in the crosshairs of Secretary Rubio’s deportation efforts.

12 Secretary Rubio and the Trump administration have made crystal clear they intend to revoke  
 13 more visas and initiate more deportation proceedings based on protected pro-Palestinian speech. On  
 14 May 8, 2025, DHS Assistant Secretary McLaughlin announced that noncitizens “pushing Hamas  
 15 propaganda,” “glorifying terrorists,” or otherwise engaging in “anti-American” conduct “can expect  
 16 your visa will be revoked.” Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. H. And at a May 21, 2025, congressional hearing,  
 17 Secretary Rubio said that he “proudly” revoked Rümeysa Öztürk’s visa and he would continue  
 18 revoking visas on similar grounds. House Foreign Affairs Committee Republicans, *supra*. The Doe  
 19 Plaintiffs are squarely in the target zones of the Provisions and thus have standing to challenge them.

20 **B. Stanford Daily has associational, corporate, and organizational standing.**

21 Stanford Daily, whose noncitizen contributors are self-censoring to avoid adverse  
 22 immigration action, has standing to challenge the Revocation and Deportation Provisions three  
 23 times over. To start, it has associational standing because “(a) its members would otherwise have  
 24 standing to sue in their own right; (b) the interests it seeks to protect are germane to the  
 25 organization’s purpose; and (c) neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires the  
 26 participation of individual members in the lawsuit.” *Hunt v. Wash. State Apple Advert. Comm’n*,  
 27 432 U.S. 333, 343 (1977). Stanford Daily’s members have standing to sue in their own right because,  
 28 like the Doe Plaintiffs, they either have engaged or intend to engage in protected speech critical of

American or Israeli foreign policy. Stanford Daily’s noncitizen writers, for example, are declining to author articles concerning Israel and Palestine and those who have published such articles are asking Stanford Daily to remove them from the internet. Verified Compl. ¶¶ 73, 75, 77, 79, 83, 86. Second, the free speech interests Stanford Daily seeks to protect “are germane to [its] purpose.” *Hunt*, 432 U.S. at 343. Stanford Daily’s purpose is to provide accurate coverage and insightful commentary about the news of the day. Verified Compl. ¶¶ 68–69. Stanford Daily cannot accomplish its purpose if its noncitizen contributors are afraid to express their honest opinions or cover certain topics related to American foreign policy. Verified Compl. ¶ 72. And the noncitizen members’ participation is unnecessary because neither the constitutional claims nor the requested relief requires individualized proof. *Hunt*, 432 U.S. at 344 (holding “declaratory and injunctive relief” are “properly resolved in a group context” because they do not need “individualized proof”).

Stanford Daily also has corporate standing because it is “directly engaged” in activities like publishing noncitizens’ work, enacting noncitizens’ editorial choices, and sponsoring noncitizens’ speech. *NAACP v. Button*, 371 U.S. 415, 428 (1963). The First Amendment protects Stanford Daily’s speech, and the government’s use of the Revocation and Deportation Provision against protected speech suppresses it. *Id.* Therefore, it has standing to protect its First Amendment rights and the rights of those associated with it. *See Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*, 573 U.S. 682, 706–07 (2014); *Moody v. NetChoice, LLC*, 603 U.S. 707, 746–47 (2024) (Barrett, J., concurring).

Finally, Stanford Daily has organizational standing because the challenged statutes have “directly affected and interfered with [its] core business activities.” *FDA v. All. for Hippocratic Med.*, 602 U.S. 367, 395 (2024). Stanford Daily has encountered significant interference with its core business activity—reporting. Verified Compl. ¶ 72. On each and all of the above bases, Stanford Daily has standing to challenge the Revocation and Deportation Provisions.

## **II. The Revocation and Deportation Provisions violate the First and Fifth Amendments as to protected speech.**

Plaintiffs are likely to succeed in showing the Revocation and Deportation Provisions violate the First Amendment when enforced based on protected speech and the Fifth Amendment’s void-for-vagueness doctrine in that regard. And the other factors—irreparable harm, the balance of

equities, and the public interest—favor a preliminary injunction because “when a party raises serious First Amendment questions, that alone compels a finding that the balance of hardships tips sharply in its favor,” and “it is always in the public interest to prevent the violation of a party’s constitutional rights.” *X Corp. v. Bonta*, 116 F.4th 888, 904 (9th Cir. 2024) (cleaned up).

This is not a challenge to Sections 1201(i) and 1227(a)(4)(C)(i) in all their applications, but only a narrow facial challenge as they apply to the government’s reliance on protected speech to revoke immigration documentation or render a noncitizen deportable. *See John Doe No. 1 v. Reed*, 561 U.S. 186, 194 (2010) (explaining standard for as-applied facial challenge). So Plaintiffs must meet the “standards for a facial challenge to the extent” the Revocation and Deportation Provisions apply to protected speech. *Id.* In this type of challenge, courts assess the laws’ scope as applied to protected speech, decide which applications violate the First Amendment, and measure the unconstitutional applications against the constitutional ones. *See Moody*, 603 U.S. at 724–25. Here, because Plaintiffs challenge the Provisions solely regarding the statutes’ use based on protected speech, and because the Provisions cannot constitutionally be enforced based on protected speech, every application in Plaintiffs’ challenge violates the Constitution.

#### **A. The First Amendment protects noncitizens’ speech.**

The Revocation and Deportation Provisions are unconstitutional because the First Amendment shackles government authority to act based on antipathy towards a speaker’s message. Consistent with the First Amendment’s original understanding as a limitation of government power, rather than the grant of a right, courts have held free speech protections apply to noncitizens. The Framers “designed and intended” the First Amendment’s command that “Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press,” U.S. Const. amend. I, to “remove governmental restraints from the arena of public discussion, putting the decision as to what views shall be voiced largely into the hands of each of us.” *Cohen v. California*, 403 U.S. 15, 24 (1971).

In our Republic, Thomas Jefferson explained, “the opinions of men are not the object of civil government, nor under its jurisdiction.” Thomas Jefferson, A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom (June 18, 1779), *reprinted by Nat’l Archives: Founders Online*, <https://perma.cc/95P5-XXMF>. James Madison similarly affirmed that “[o]pinions are not the objects of legislation.” 4



Annals of Cong. 934 (1794). Other Founders agreed. *See, e.g.*, Oliver Ellsworth, A Landholder 7 (Dec. 17, 1787), *reprinted by* Teaching Am. Hist., <https://perma.cc/66TU-EZ5V> (“Civil government has no business to meddle with the private opinions of the people.”). At bottom, “freedom of speech is a negative liberty. The First Amendment is a restriction on the government’s power to ‘abridge’ speech.” *Pahls v. Thomas*, 718 F.3d 1210, 1239 (10th Cir. 2013) (cleaned up).

Because the Constitution divested the government of authority to interfere with the marketplace of ideas, the First Amendment acknowledges no “distinction between citizens and resident aliens.” *Kwong Hai Chew*, 344 U.S. at 596 n.5 (internal quotation marks omitted). One of the first modern First Amendment cases involved noncitizens’ speech. *Abrams v. United States*, 250 U.S. 616, 617 (1919). Later Supreme Court cases made clear that “[f]reedom of speech and of press is accorded aliens residing in this country.” *Wixon*, 326 U.S. at 148.

The Ninth Circuit has held that the First Amendment prohibits deporting aliens for protected speech and explained that “[t]he Framers explicitly recognized that aliens within this country participate in a reciprocal relationship of societal obligations and correlative protection.” *AADC*, 70 F.3d at 1065 (citing Madison, The Report of 1800, *supra*). Therefore, “the values underlying the First Amendment require the full applicability of First Amendment rights to the deportation setting.” *Id.* at 1064. After all, “[i]f aliens do not have First Amendment rights at deportation, then their First Amendment rights in other contexts are a nullity, because the omnipresent threat of deportation would permanently chill their expressive and associational activities.” *Id.* at 1065–66.<sup>6</sup>

The First Amendment therefore constrains how the legislative and executive branches may exercise their enumerated, plenary powers. For example, while Congress may “lay and collect Taxes,” U.S. Const. art. 1, § 8, cl. 1, it would violate the First Amendment to condition a tax rebate on having a Republican yard sign. *See, e.g., Speiser v. Randall*, 357 U.S. 513, 518 (1958) (“Congress may not by withdrawal of mailing privileges place limitations upon the freedom of speech which if

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<sup>6</sup> Other circuits have likewise found lawfully present noncitizens enjoy First Amendment protection, albeit the courts did not address the issue in the context of immigration. *See, e.g., Parcham v. INS*, 769 F.2d 1001, 1004 (4th Cir. 1985); *OPAWL - Bldg. AAPI Feminist Leadership v. Yost*, 118 F.4th 770, 776 (6th Cir. 2024); *In re Weitzman*, 426 F.2d 439, 449 (8th Cir. 1970); *United States v. Huitron-Guizar*, 678 F.3d 1164, 1168–69 (10th Cir. 2012).

1 directly attempted would be unconstitutional.”) Likewise here: While Congress has authority to craft  
 2 legislation regulating noncitizens in the country, *see Galvan v. Press*, 347 U.S. 522, 530 (1954), it  
 3 cannot legislate in a manner that targets their protected speech.<sup>7</sup> As the Ninth Circuit held, quoting  
 4 Justice Murphy’s concurrence in *Wixon*, “Since resident aliens have constitutional rights, it follows  
 5 that Congress may not ignore them in the exercise of its ‘plenary’ power of deportation.” *AADC*, 70  
 6 F.3d at 1065 (quoting *Wixon*, 326 U.S. at 161 (Murphy, J., concurring)).

7 These principles remain true even when the political branches invoke their foreign-affairs  
 8 powers. As the Supreme Court explained, “Faced with a clear conflict between a federal statute  
 9 enacted in the interests of national security and an individual’s exercise of his First Amendment  
 10 rights, we have confined our analysis to whether Congress has adopted a constitutional means in  
 11 achieving its concededly legitimate legislative goal.” *United States v. Robel*, 389 U.S. 258, 268 n.20  
 12 (1967). More recently, it stressed that “precedents, old and new, make clear that concerns of national  
 13 security and foreign relations do not warrant abdication of the judicial role” to safeguard  
 14 constitutional rights. *Holder v. Humanitarian L. Project*, 561 U.S. 1, 34 (2010); *see also Sessions*,  
 15 584 U.S. at 174–75 (majority op.) (holding unconstitutional an INA provision).

16 To that end, the Supreme Court has routinely invalidated foreign-affairs laws to uphold  
 17 America’s commitment to free speech. In *Boos v. Barry*, the Court struck down regulations barring  
 18 demonstrations critical of foreign governments within 500 feet of a foreign embassy. 485 U.S. 312  
 19 (1988). In *Lamont v. Postmaster General*, it invalidated a federal law that unconstitutionally limited  
 20 the First Amendment right to receive foreign Communist literature. 381 U.S. 301 (1965). In *Robel*,  
 21 too, the Court struck down a national defense statute on First Amendment grounds, explaining that  
 22

23  
 24 <sup>7</sup> The Supreme Court has recognized the political branches enjoy significantly more discretion  
 25 when determining who to allow into the country because noncitizens have no constitutional right to  
 26 *enter* the United States. *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693, 695–96 (2001) (noting the  
 27 “distinction between an alien who has effected an entry into the United States and one who has never  
 28 entered runs throughout immigration law”). As the Ninth Circuit explained, “The essential  
 distinction between exclusion and deportation rests on this territorial concept of a diverse national  
 community within which citizens and resident aliens interact. ... We find no merit in the  
 Government’s argument that the broad authority of the political branches over immigration matters  
 justifies limited First Amendment protection for aliens at deportation.” *AADC*, 70 F.3d at 1064–65.



1 “[i]t would indeed be ironic, if, in the name of national defense, we would sanction the subversion  
2 of one of those liberties ... which makes the defense of the Nation worthwhile.” 389 U.S. at 264.

3 **B. Revoking visas and deporting noncitizens under the Revocation and**  
4 **Deportation Provisions is unlawful viewpoint discrimination.**

5 Application of the Revocation and Deportation Provisions to noncitizens’ protected speech  
6 offends the “central tenet of the First Amendment that the government must remain neutral in the  
7 marketplace of ideas.” *FCC v. Pacifica Found.*, 438 U.S. 726, 745–46 (1978). That tenet means  
8 “[t]he government may not discriminate against speech based on the ideas or opinions it conveys.”  
9 *Iancu v. Brunetti*, 588 U.S. 388, 393 (2019). This is especially so because “speech on public issues  
10 occupies the highest rung on the hierarchy of First Amendment values, and is entitled to special  
11 protection.” *Snyder v. Phelps*, 562 U.S. 443, 452 (2011) (internal quotation marks omitted).

12 By allowing the Secretary of State to revoke visas and trigger the deportation of lawfully  
13 present noncitizens for protected speech about America’s foreign policy, the Revocation and  
14 Deportation Provisions sanction blatant viewpoint discrimination, enabling the government to target  
15 its critics and shelter its supporters. The provisions are codified retaliation, authorizing adverse  
16 immigration action for engaging in protected speech. *See Lozman v. Riviera Beach*, 585 U.S. 87, 90  
17 (2018) (“[T]he First Amendment prohibits government officials from retaliating against individuals  
18 for engaging in protected speech.”) This state-sanctioned viewpoint discrimination violates the First  
19 Amendment.

20 The Deportation Provision singles out speech Secretary Rubio deems contrary to American  
21 foreign policy as a deportable offense while leaving expression in line with American foreign policy  
22 untouched. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(C)(iii). The “essence of viewpoint discrimination,” violating  
23 “bedrock First Amendment principle[s],” is when a law “reflects the Government’s disapproval of  
24 a subset of messages.” *Matal v. Tam*, 582 U.S. 218, 249 (2017) (Kennedy, J., concurring); *id.* at 223  
25 (plurality op.). Here, the Deportation Provision’s “facial viewpoint bias” that expressly singles out  
26 speech contrary to American foreign policy “results in viewpoint-discriminatory application.”  
27 *Iancu*, 588 U.S. at 395. Secretary Rubio has invoked the Deportation Provision against noncitizens  
28 who criticized Israel’s military operations in Gaza, protested for Palestinians, or advocated for a

1 ceasefire. *See* Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. D, 32–35. But he has never invoked it against those who praised  
2 Israel’s military operations in Gaza, protested for Israeli hostages, or advocated for increased  
3 military operations. That is textbook viewpoint discrimination. *See Iancu*, 588 U.S. at 395.

4 Secretary Rubio and the Trump administration have *vowed* to continue their viewpoint-based  
5 enforcement of the Deportation Provision. *See* Fitzpatrick Decl. Exs. E, O. On March 10, 2025,  
6 President Trump, discussing his administration’s attempt to deport Mr. Khalil, pledged that foreign  
7 students involved in “pro-terrorist, anti-Semitic, anti-American activity” will be found and deported,  
8 promising that Mr. Khalil’s arrest was the “first” of “many to come.” Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. F.

9 The Revocation Provision’s grant of unbridled discretion to the Secretary to revoke visas “at  
10 any time, in his discretion,” 8 U.S.C. § 1201(i), renders it likewise viewpoint discriminatory as to  
11 revocations based on protected speech. As the Ninth Circuit has held, such exercise of unbridled  
12 discretion to limit speech is *per se* viewpoint discrimination. *Kaahumanu v. Hawaii*, 682 F.3d 789,  
13 806 (9th Cir. 2012); *see also Ateba v. Leavitt*, 133 F.4th 114, 124 (D.C. Cir. 2025) (discussing Ninth  
14 Circuit approach). The Revocation Provision not only unconstitutionally lacks “adequate safeguards  
15 to *protect* against the improper exclusions of viewpoints,” *Kaahumanu*, 682 F.3d at 806 (quoting  
16 *Child Evangelism Fellowship of Md., Inc. v. Montgomery Cnty. Pub. Schs.*, 457 F.3d 376, 384 (4th  
17 Cir. 2006)); it lacks *any* safeguards, rendering it viewpoint discriminatory, *see id.*

18 And because Plaintiffs challenge the Revocation Provision solely as applied to revocations  
19 based on protected speech, all applications in that challenge are necessarily viewpoint  
20 discriminatory. Any time the Secretary of State revokes immigration documentation based on  
21 speech, he is singling out the speaker’s message for disfavored treatment. Secretary Rubio  
22 confirmed revoking Rümeysa Öztürk’s visa would be the first of many revocations to come. House  
23 Foreign Affairs Committee Republicans, *supra*, at 2:55:50–2:56:20. And a DHS official threatened  
24 that noncitizens engaging in “anti-American” expression or “pushing Hamas propaganda” “can  
25 expect your visa will be revoked.” Fitzpatrick Decl. Ex. H. In both structure and practice, the  
26 Revocation Provision sanctions open viewpoint discrimination against protected speech.

27 Because the Revocation and Deportation Provisions facially sanction viewpoint discrimina-  
28 tion as applied to protected speech, they are unconstitutional in that regard, full stop. In *Matal*, a

“finding of viewpoint bias ended the matter” of the law’s unconstitutionality because once a court has “found that a law ‘aims at the suppression of views,’ why would it matter that Congress could have captured some of the same speech through a viewpoint-neutral statute?” *Iancu*, 588 U.S. at 399 (quoting *Matal*, 582 U.S. at 248 (Kennedy, J., concurring)). It would not, because “viewpoint discrimination is uniquely harmful to a free and democratic society.” *Vullo*, 602 U.S. at 187. It is such an obvious violation of free speech that “the Supreme Court has described the First Amendment as almost universally ‘forbidding the government from regulating speech in ways that favor some viewpoints or ideas at the expense of others.’” *Junior Sports Mags. Inc. v. Bonta*, 80 F.4th 1109, 1124 (9th Cir. 2023) (VanDyke, J., concurring) (quoting *Members of City Council v. Taxpayers for Vincent*, 466 U.S. 789, 804 (1984) (cleaned up)); *see also Honeyfund.com Inc. v. Governor*, 94 F.4th 1272, 1278 (11th Cir. 2024) (noting viewpoint discrimination is “likely even invalid per se”).<sup>8</sup> This Court should “remain firm on the principle that the First Amendment does not tolerate viewpoint discrimination,” *Iancu*, 588 U.S. at 399 (Alito, J., concurring), and preliminarily enjoin the Revocation Provision as unconstitutional as applied to protected speech.

**C. The Revocation and Deportation Provisions are content based and fail strict scrutiny.**

The Deportation Provision and Revocation Provision also unconstitutionally discriminate based on content when applied to noncitizens’ protected speech. “Government regulation of speech is content based if a law applies to particular speech because of the topic discussed or the idea or message expressed.” *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*, 576 U.S. 155, 163 (2015). Such content-discriminatory laws, like the Revocation and Deportation Provisions, “are presumptively unconstitutional” and enforceable “only if the government proves that they are narrowly tailored to serve compelling state interests,” *id.*, and they are “the least restrictive means of achieving” those interests, *McCullen v. Coakley*, 573 U.S. 464, 478 (2014). Here, revoking a visa under the Revocation Provision or initiating deportation proceedings under the Deportation Provision based on protected speech are

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<sup>8</sup> If the Court concludes viewpoint-discriminatory laws are not unconstitutional per se, they are still, at minimum, subject to strict scrutiny, which, as explained in the next section, the Revocation and Deportation Provisions cannot survive.

1 inescapably tied to “the topic [the noncitizen] discussed or the idea or message expressed.” *Reed*,  
 2 576 U.S. at 163. Both provisions fail strict scrutiny.

3 The Deportation Provision and Revocation Provision fail at the outset for lack of a compel-  
 4 ling interest as applied to noncitizens’ protected speech. Attempting to cull dissenting voices from  
 5 the marketplace of ideas is not a legitimate government interest. As the Supreme Court explained  
 6 just last year, “suppression of free expression ... is not [a] valid, let alone substantial” government  
 7 interest. *Moody*, 603 U.S. at 740; *accord* Jefferson, A Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom, *supra*  
 8 (“The opinions of men are not the object of civil government, nor under its jurisdiction.”); 4 Annals  
 9 of Cong. 934 (Madison: “Opinions are not the objects of legislation.”). Nor may the government  
 10 talismanically invoke foreign policy to establish a compelling governmental interest. “The First  
 11 Amendment requires a more careful assessment and characterization of an evil” to justify a  
 12 “sweeping” regulation of protected speech. *United States v. Playboy Ent. Grp., Inc.*, 529 U.S. 803,  
 13 819 (2000). That means the government must provide clarity on the interest before a court can decide  
 14 whether it is compelling. *Republican Party of Minn. v. White*, 536 U.S. 765, 775 (2002).

15 If the government seeks to justify the Revocation and Deportation Provisions on the theory  
 16 that they promote a statutory interest in “United States foreign policy,” 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(C)(iii),  
 17 that is too broad and nebulous to pass constitutional muster. The government has described  
 18 America’s foreign policy “interests” in myriad ways. *See Khalil*, 2025 WL 1514713, at \*46 (listing  
 19 33 foreign policy “interests” identified in various governmental statements). Would the  
 20 government’s statutory interest in its foreign policy allow it to ban noncitizens from expressing  
 21 support for foreign companies? *Id.* (noting America’s foreign policy interest in “ensuring the global  
 22 economic competitiveness of American companies”). Would it allow banning noncitizens from  
 23 criticizing Israel’s attack on Iranian nuclear sites? *Id.* (noting America’s foreign policy interest in  
 24 “preventing nuclear proliferation”). One cannot know, the *Khalil* court explained, because the  
 25 supposed governmental interest is “both enormously broad and fuzzy at [its] edges.” *Id.* at \*48. And  
 26 “it is self-evident that an indeterminate prohibition carries with it the opportunity for abuse.” *Minn.*  
 27 *Voters All. v. Mansky*, 585 U.S. 1, 22 (2018) (cleaned up).

1 When the government seeks to regulate speech, “it must do more than simply ‘posit the  
2 existence of the disease sought to be cured.’” *Turner Broad. Sys., Inc. v. FCC*, 512 U.S. 622, 664  
3 (1994). “It must demonstrate that the recited harms are real, not merely conjectural, and that the  
4 regulation will in fact alleviate these harms in a direct and material way.” *Id.* But the only objective  
5 of invoking the Revocation or Deportation Provisions based on protected speech is silencing  
6 expression the government disfavors. And when an interest “is very much related to the suppression  
7 of free expression,” it is not a valid government interest. *Moody*, 603 U.S. at 740; *see also Texas v.*  
8 *Johnson*, 491 U.S. 397, 416 (1989) (“[T]he government may not prohibit expression simply because  
9 it disagrees with its message... .”) Even the “mere tendency of speech to encourage unlawful acts  
10 is not a sufficient reason for banning it.” *Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coal.*, 535 U.S. 234, 253 (2002).

11 In addition to lacking a compelling governmental interest (let alone advancing one), the  
12 Provisions are not tailored *at all*. The Deportation Provision lacks meaningful tailoring in permitting  
13 deportation based on any “beliefs, statements, or associations.” 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(C)(iii). It  
14 lacks time tailoring, too, encompassing the noncitizen’s “past, current, *or expected*” protected  
15 speech. *Id.* (emphasis added). That’s right: The Deportation Provision allows the Secretary of State  
16 to trigger the deportation of a noncitizen based on *protected* speech the Secretary *thinks* the  
17 noncitizen *might* espouse in the future. And it lacks factual tailoring, applying to whatever protected  
18 activity Secretary Rubio thinks (but need not prove) “would compromise a compelling United States  
19 foreign policy interest.” *Id.*; *see also Massieu v. Reno*, 915 F. Supp. 681, 710 (D.N.J.) (noting that  
20 under the Deportation Provision the Secretary need only claim, rather than prove, a deportation is  
21 necessary for the provision to be satisfied), *rev’d on other grounds*, 91 F.3d 416 (3d Cir. 1996). That  
22 is not narrow tailoring. It is not *any* tailoring. It is carte blanche, unreviewable authority to retaliate  
23 against government critics or those who hold (or may espouse) the “wrong” opinions.

24 Worse still, the Revocation Provision is a poster child for lack of tailoring when it comes to  
25 protected speech. It allows the Secretary to “at any time, in his discretion, revoke” a “visa or other  
26 documentation.” 8 U.S.C. § 1201(i). It can apply to any action, including protected speech. *See, e.g.,*  
27 *Ozturk*, 2025 WL 1145250, at \*2, \*18. As with the Deportation Provision, the Secretary need not  
28

1 provide a justification, nor supporting proof, for his decision to revoke a lawfully present  
2 noncitizen's visa. The government, again, cannot justify such broad and unrestrained powers.

3 Contrast the Revocation and Deportation Provisions with the material support for terrorism  
4 statute in *Holder*, which the Court held was narrowly tailored. In reaching this conclusion, it stressed  
5 how Congress was "conscious of its own responsibility to consider how its actions may implicate  
6 constitutional concerns," in that it limited the statute to apply only "to designated foreign terrorist  
7 organizations," provided "narrowing definitions" of prohibited actions, included "an explanation of  
8 the knowledge required," and created "limited exceptions," excluding "medicine and religious  
9 materials." 561 U.S. at 28, 35–36. And "most importantly," it "avoided any restriction on  
10 independent advocacy, or indeed any activities not directed to, coordinated with, or controlled by  
11 foreign terrorist groups." *Id.* at 36. Neither the Revocation Provision nor the Deportation Provision  
12 contain *any* limitations, much less limitations to protect against intrusions on protected speech.

13 The Revocation and Deportation Provisions are unconstitutional as applied to protected  
14 speech because the government could serve its purposes unrelated to protected speech through less  
15 restrictive means. "If a less restrictive alternative would serve the Government's purpose," it "must  
16 use that alternative." *Playboy Ent. Grp.*, 529 U.S. at 813. The government cannot justify the  
17 Deportation and Revocation Provisions with protestations it is trying to exclude "terrorists," as the  
18 INA has a separate deportation ground for noncitizens "engage[d] in a terrorist activity." *See* 8  
19 U.S.C. § 1227(a)(1)(B); *id.* § 1182(a)(3)(B)(i)(I). That satisfies any purported interest in combatting  
20 "terrorism" without intruding on speech. And the government can still use the INA to deport any  
21 noncitizen whose entry or presence in the United States the Secretary has "reasonable ground"  
22 *unrelated to his speech activities* "to believe" would "have potentially serious adverse foreign policy  
23 consequences for the United States." *See id.* § 1227(a)(4)(B)(i). All told, the Revocation and  
24 Deportation Provisions are not the least restrictive means of addressing any legitimate government  
25 interest, *especially* as applied to protected speech.



**D. The Revocation and Deportation Provisions are unconstitutionally vague as applied to protected speech.**

Even if the Revocation and Deportation Provisions could avoid viewpoint discrimination and survive strict scrutiny as applied to protected speech, they are unconstitutionally vague under the Fifth Amendment in that application. The prohibition on vague speech regulations serves two primary purposes: “guarantee[ing] that ordinary people have ‘fair notice’ of the conduct a statute proscribes” and “guard[ing] against arbitrary or discriminatory law enforcement by insisting that a statute provide standards.” *Sessions*, 584 U.S. at 156 (plurality op.). This ensures “Congress, rather than the executive or judicial branch, define what conduct is sanctionable and what is not.” *Id.* Where, as here, a law “is capable of reaching expression sheltered by the First Amendment,” the vagueness doctrine “demands a greater degree of specificity than in other contexts.” *Smith v. Goguen*, 415 U.S. 566, 573 (1974). That is because “[u]ncertain meanings inevitably lead citizens to steer far wider of the unlawful zone than if the boundaries of the forbidden areas were clearly marked,” distorting the marketplace of ideas through self-censorship. *Grayned v. City of Rockford*, 408 U.S. 104, 109 (1972) (cleaned up). Here, the Revocation and Deportation Provisions are unconstitutional because they grant the Secretary unfettered discretion to revoke visas and render noncitizens deportable based on protected speech and give noncitizens like Plaintiffs and their noncitizen members no notice of what triggers those consequences.

The government faces a doubly stringent standard here, as the Revocation and Deportation Provisions affect noncitizens’ immigration status. Because deportation is a “drastic measure, often amounting to lifelong banishment or exile,” the “most exacting vagueness standard” applicable to criminal laws also applies to immigration laws. *Sessions*, 584 U.S. at 156–57 (cleaned up) (applying heightened vagueness test to invalidate an INA provision). Held to this stringent standard (and even the normal standard), both provisions are void for vagueness as to protected speech.

The Deportation Provision is unconstitutionally vague on its face as applied to protected speech as it provides noncitizens no guidance when their expression “compromises a compelling United States foreign policy interest” while affording Secretary Rubio standardless, limitless discretion to decide when someone’s opinion crosses that imaginary line. As to how it leaves

1 noncitizens guessing, the Deportation Provision provides no “statutory definitions, narrowing  
2 context, or settled legal meanings” as guidance. *United States v. Williams*, 553 U.S. 285, 306 (2008).  
3 The core of the vagueness doctrine is that people should not have to “guess” whether they are  
4 violating the law, *Baggett v. Bullitt*, 377 U.S. 360, 367 (1964), but that is precisely what the  
5 Deportation Provision requires noncitizens to do. The only safe way to avoid its reach is to refrain  
6 from criticizing the government, which is a profoundly un-American approach to free speech.

7 As another court explained in holding the Deportation Provision unconstitutionally vague,  
8 the “nation’s foreign policy is an ever-changing amalgamation of interests ... often known only to  
9 the Secretary, himself.” *Massieu*, 915 F. Supp. at 701 *rev’d on other grounds*, 91 F.3d 416. That  
10 necessitates guesswork. But even *declared* government policies offer insurmountable challenges. If  
11 the government seeks warmer relations with China, must noncitizens curtail criticism of China’s  
12 human rights abuses? Now that tariffs are a significant aspect of American foreign policy, must  
13 noncitizens self-censor criticism of their impact on the economy? Regardless of whether the policy  
14 is rolled out in the State of the Union Address or classified and known only to a select few, the  
15 Deportation Provision makes it impossible for noncitizens to know how to avoid risking deportation.

16 The Deportation Provision also lacks *any* guidance to ensure the Secretary does not act in an  
17 arbitrary or discriminatory way. The vagueness doctrine requires “a legislature establish minimal  
18 guidelines to govern law enforcement,” *Kolender v. Lawson*, 461 U.S. 352, 358 (1983) (quoting  
19 *Smith*, 415 U.S. at 574), to prevent “arbitrary and erratic” applications of the law, *Papachristou v.*  
20 *City of Jacksonville*, 405 U.S. 156, 162 (1972). But the Deportation Provision contains no such  
21 guidelines. The phrase “compromises a compelling foreign ... policy interest” means whatever  
22 Secretary Rubio wants it to mean. The administration can thus enforce—and has enforced—the  
23 Deportation Provision in any way it wants, going after specific speech it disfavors and conclusorily  
24 claiming it implicates a foreign policy interest. *See Khalil*, 2025 WL 1514713, at \*42–44; Resp. in  
25 Opp. to Mot. for Release Ex. A at 2, *Mahdawi*, 2025 WL 1243135 (No. 25-cv-389), ECF No. 42-1.

26 Likewise with the Revocation Provision, lacking *any* standard. It gives the Secretary of State  
27 power to “at any time, in his discretion, revoke [a] visa or other documentation.” 8 U.S.C. § 1201(i).  
28 That unchecked power violates the Supreme Court’s vagueness doctrine as applied to protected



speech for the same reasons as the Deportation Provision. *See Kolender*, 461 U.S. at 360. Secretary Rubio’s actions towards pro-Palestinian speakers show what happens when the dangers of vague laws become reality: unfettered arbitrary enforcement against critics, and rampant self-censorship. Noncitizens like the Doe Plaintiffs and Stanford Daily’s writers self-censor to avoid government retribution. That is no way for our “liberty-loving” society to operate. *Bridges*, 314 U.S. at 263.

### **III. Irreparable harm, the balance of equities, and the public interest favor an injunction.**

Because Plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the merits or, at the very least, have raised “serious questions” going to their claims’ merits, they have demonstrated irreparable harm. *Cottrell*, 632 F.3d at 1135; *see Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d 976, 995 (9th Cir. 2017) (holding irreparable harm “follows inexorably” from a “conclusion that the government’s current policies are likely unconstitutional”). That also shows “both the public interest and the balance of the equities favor a preliminary injunction.” *Ariz. Dream Act Coal. v. Brewer*, 757 F.3d 1053, 1069 (9th Cir. 2014); *see also X Corp.*, 116 F. 4th at 904 (“[I]t is always in the public interest to prevent the violation of a party’s constitutional rights.”) Plaintiffs are accordingly entitled to preliminary injunctive relief.

### **IV. The Court should waive the bond requirement.**

Because Plaintiffs seek to vindicate their constitutional rights, the Court should not require a bond. Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(c), courts have broad discretion “as to the amount of security required, *if any*,” for a preliminary injunction. *Johnson v. Couturier*, 572 F.3d 1067, 1086 (9th Cir. 2009) (cleaned up). In cases raising constitutional questions, courts typically exercise their discretion to decline to impose a bond. *See, e.g., Fink v. Kirchmeyer*, 720 F. Supp. 3d 780, 792 (N.D. Cal. 2024) (declining to require a bond when granting a preliminary injunction on First Amendment grounds). If a bond is necessary, Plaintiffs request a nominal \$1 bond.

### **CONCLUSION**

Plaintiffs request this Court grant their motion for a preliminary injunction preventing the government from using the Revocation Provision to revoke the visas or other documentation of Plaintiffs and/or their noncitizen members for engaging in protected speech. Plaintiffs also request preliminary factual findings and legal conclusions that the Revocation and Deportation Provisions are unconstitutional if applied to resident noncitizens’ protected speech.

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Respectfully Submitted,

2 /s/ Marc Van Der Hout

/s/ Conor T. Fitzpatrick

3 Marc Van Der Hout (Cal. Bar #80778)

Conor T. Fitzpatrick (Mich. Bar #P78981)\*

4 Johnny Sinodis (Cal. Bar #290402)

Daniel A. Zahn (D.C. Bar #90027403)\*

Oona Cahill (Cal. Bar #354525)

**FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL**

**VAN DER HOUT LLP**

**RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION (FIRE)**

360 Post Street, Suite 800

700 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 340

5 San Francisco, CA 94108

Washington, DC 20003

6 Telephone: (415) 981-3000

Telephone: (215) 717-3473

Facsimile: (415) 981-3003

Email: conor.fitzpatrick@thefire.org

7 Email: ndca@vblaw.com

Email: daniel.zahn@thefire.org

8 Colin P. McDonell (Cal. Bar #289099)

**FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL**

**RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION (FIRE)**

510 Walnut Street, Suite 900

Philadelphia, PA 19106

11 Telephone: (215) 717-3473

Email: colin.mcdonell@thefire.org

13 \*Pro hac vice application pending

14 *Counsel for Plaintiffs*