

Sin Barreras/Without Barriers Policy Statement

Immigration Bail - June 6, 2019

Sin Barreras condemns the Administration's proposed policy to deny asylum seekers the possibility of posting bond so as to hinder their developing their asylum petitions with U.S. resources.

The recently appointed Attorney General has now rescinded asylees' right to bail after they are apprehended crossing the border, a policy that could jail thousands of adults for months or even years. His ruling reversed a 2005 Board of Immigration Appeals court decision that said asylum seekers should have a right to bond hearings once they set foot on U.S. soil. The A.G. contends the case "was wrongly decided." The decision came days after a federal judge in Washington State ordered the Administration to give detained asylum seekers bond hearings. His decision sets up another legal battle as the Administration contends with a crush of asylum seekers which is at a 12-year high. Most current asylum seekers, because they are families with children and toddlers and babies, are quickly released, frustrating Administration efforts to reduce the number of immigrant arrivals.

"This is a disaster, and it is intentional," Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii.) "[The A.G.'s] decision to deny bond hearings is another attempt by the Administration to use indefinite detention as a deterrent for people who are exercising their right under U.S. and international law to seek asylum. It's creating a crisis of capacity on purpose."

Many immigrant advocates agree, seeing the ruling as an attempt to detain immigrants indefinitely in the United States and discourage people fleeing violence and poverty from seeking protection.

Sin Barreras calls on its supporters to comment in massive numbers at <https://www.regulations.gov/> against this new attack —yet another—on basic human fairness to recently arrived asylum candidates seeking our protection.