

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 5, 2025

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Pam Bondi  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

**RE: Kelly Yu, Peoria business owner in ICE custody**

President Trump, Attorney General Bondi, and Secretary Noem:

We bring to your attention an urgent matter concerning Kelly Yu, a long-time Arizona resident and very successful small business owner, mother of a U.S. citizen and wife to a U.S. citizen, and a valued member of the Peoria community. She is widely recognized for her contributions to the community, including donating meals to homeless shelters, supporting high school baseball teams, and supporting local law enforcement.<sup>1</sup> She has no criminal history and has complied with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), including routine check-ins while under supervision. Despite Kelly's compliance with the conditions of supervised release, she was placed in detention during her last ICE check-in and has now spent months at the Eloy Detention Center. Kelly's case has received significant attention from Arizonans of varying political affiliations because of the cruelty in separating this

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<sup>1</sup> "Who is Kelly Yu? What to know about longtime Peoria restaurant owner facing deportation," AZCentral (Aug. 14, 2025), <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/immigration/2025/08/14/peoria-restaurant-owner-kelly-yu-facing-deportation/85651393007/>.

Arizona family, and they are calling on the government to release Kelly so she can return to her family and community in Arizona.<sup>2</sup>

As reported by Kelly and her family, Kelly entered the United States in 2004 as a pregnant 18-year-old, fleeing China's one-child policy and other repressions.<sup>3</sup> Kelly applied for asylum, later was denied by an immigration judge, which she appealed. Throughout the period of her appeal, she has remained under ICE supervision for two decades. Meanwhile, she also built a life in Arizona. She is her family's breadwinner as the owner and operator of successful local restaurant, Kawaii Sushi, which has become a cornerstone of her community, and she employs dozens of American workers.<sup>4</sup> Kelly also raised her daughter, an American who is attending college in Arizona. And she married her long-time partner, Manuel "Aldo" Urquizo, a U.S. citizen. The married couple have since begun the process to adjust Kelly's immigration status.

Kelly's detention deserves the use of discretion by this administration. As the immediate family member of two Americans, Kelly has a legal path to remain in the United States, and she has demonstrated for over twenty years that she will comply with ICE supervision while her application is reviewed. After fleeing a repressive regime as a teen, Kelly has now lived more years of her life in the United States. In that time, she started a family, set deep roots in our community in Arizona, became a job creator and is a lawful, contributing member of our society. Removing Kelly would not be in the best interest of the United States. Given the compelling nature of Kelly's case, we respectfully urge the administration to exercise its discretion to stay or otherwise suspend her removal, release her back on supervision and reconsider reopening the removal case.

The administration has stated it is focused on keeping Americans safe from "the worst of the worst" in its immigration enforcement efforts.<sup>5</sup> We agree on the administration focusing on removing dangerous criminals and focusing resources on those cases. But that is not what is happening in this case. Kelly is a productive, law-abiding member of society who is not a criminal and clearly not the "worst of the worst." Her case is emblematic of the kind of long-time, non-criminal residents with deep family and community ties for whom discretion is

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<sup>2</sup> "Dem, Republican put differences aside to help Peoria restaurant owner facing deportation", AZCentral (Aug. 12, 2025), <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/immigration/2025/08/12/arizona-republican-democrat-team-up-to-help-woman-facing-deportation/85618991007/>.

<sup>3</sup> "Who is Kelly Yu? What to know about longtime Peoria restaurant owner facing deportation," AZCentral (Aug. 14, 2025), <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/immigration/2025/08/14/peoria-restaurant-owner-kelly-yu-facing-deportation/85651393007/>.

<sup>4</sup> "Peoria sushi shop owner faces deportation after 21 years of living in the US," 12News (Jul. 15, 2025), <https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/valley/peoria-sushi-shop-owner-faces-deportation-after-21-years-living-in-us/75-b60c1482-56b0-4fe5-8719-e90f488c6159>.

<sup>5</sup> "Noem says 'worst of the worst' arrested in NYC raid targeting criminal illegal immigrants," FoxNews.com (Jan. 28, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/noem-says-worst-worst-being-arrested-nyc-raid-targeting-criminal-illegal-immigrants>.

intended. Without such action, she faces imminent removal to a country she fled as a teenager under credible fear and separation from her American family.

We appreciate your review of Kelly's urgent request for an exercise of discretion to suspend her removal, release her under supervision and reconsider reopening her case. We respectfully request your expeditious full and fair consideration of this request within applicable rules, regulations and ethical guidelines, and hope that you will respond favorably.

Sincerely,



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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



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Ruben Gallego  
United States Senator



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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress