SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPRE	ME COURT OF	THE UNITED S)IAIES
DONALD J. TRUMP, PR	RESIDENT)	
OF THE UNITED STATE	S, ET AL.,)	
Appel	lants,)	
v.) No. 20	-366
NEW YORK, ET AL.,)	
Appel	lees.)	

Pages: 1 through 96

Place: Washington, D.C.

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1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UN	NITED STATES
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3	DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT)
4	OF THE UNITED STATES, ET AL.,)
5	Appellants,)
6	v.) No. 20-366
7	NEW YORK, ET AL.,)
8	Appellees.)
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11	Washington, D.C.	
12	Monday, November 30,	2020
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14	The above-entitled m	natter came on for
15	oral argument before the Supreme	e Court of the
16	United States at 10:00 a.m.	
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1	APPEARANCES:
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3	JEFFREY B. WALL, Acting Solicitor General,
4	Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.;
5	on behalf of the Appellants.
6	BARBARA D. UNDERWOOD, Solicitor General, New York, New
7	York; on behalf of the Government Appellees.
8	DALE E. HO, ESQUIRE, New York, New York;
9	on behalf of the Private Appellees.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:00 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We will hear
4	argument first this morning in Case 20-366,
5	Trump versus New York.
6	General Wall.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF JEFFREY B. WALL
8	ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLANTS
9	GENERAL WALL: Mr. Chief Justice, and
10	may it please the Court:
11	This case should be over. The
12	district court held that appellees would be
13	injured because illegal aliens would be chilled
14	from participating in the enumeration. But that
15	counting is now over, and whatever chill ever
16	existed has fallen.
17	Appellees therefore pivot to possible
18	future injuries, but as of this very morning,
19	career experts at the Census Bureau confirmed
20	with me that they still don't know even roughly
21	how many illegal aliens it'll be able to
22	identify, let alone how their number and
23	geographic concentration might affect
24	apportionment. And if they don't know,
25	dertainly the other parties to this dage do

- 1 not.
- 2 The Court, therefore, should follow
- 3 the course charted by the three-judge D.C.
- 4 District Court last week: Vacate the judgment
- 5 below, allow the Secretary to comply with the
- 6 memorandum, and allow any effect on
- 7 apportionment to be litigated as it normally
- 8 would be in a post-apportionment lawsuit by
- 9 parties with concrete injuries.
- 10 On the merits, there's no procedural
- 11 problem with the memorandum. The President may
- 12 direct the Secretary to send him two sets of
- 13 numbers so that he may decide how to exercise
- 14 whatever discretion he has.
- The real fight here is substantive,
- 16 over how much discretion the President has.
- 17 Text, history, and precedent are all clear about
- 18 the general test whether one is an inhabitant.
- 19 The question is how to apply that test to people
- who are present in the country illegally.
- 21 Treating someone apprehended at the
- border on March 31 or scheduled to be removed on
- 23 April 2 as a usual or settled resident of the
- 24 United States on April 1 flies in the face of
- 25 this Court's cases, common sense, and any sound

- 1 theory of political representation.
- 2 The President has at least some
- 3 discretion to determine that at least some
- 4 illegal aliens lack enduring ties to the states,
- 5 which means that the judgment should be
- 6 reversed.
- 7 I welcome the Court's questions.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: General, my
- 9 first question goes to the very first point you
- 10 raised. We expedited this case in light of the
- 11 December 31 deadline for the Secretary to
- 12 transmit the census to the President.
- 13 Is that date still operative? Do you
- still need a decision by that date?
- 15 GENERAL WALL: Well, the situation is
- 16 fairly fluid, Mr. Chief Justice. We -- because
- of the two weeks that we lost to the California
- injunction and some subsequent issues in
- 19 processing the data, we are not currently on
- 20 pace to send the report to the President by the
- 21 year-end statutory deadline.
- 22 But just this morning, I confirmed
- with senior leadership at the Department of
- 24 Commerce and the Census Bureau that we are
- 25 hopeful, and it remains possible, that we can

- 1 get at least some of the PM-related data to the
- 2 President in January, so we do still need relief
- 3 from the Court, yes.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sounds like
- 5 you had a busy morning. What -- what -- what do
- 6 you mean, "PM data"?
- 7 GENERAL WALL: I'm sorry. The
- 8 Presidential Memorandum data. So the data the
- 9 President has requested in order to -- to
- 10 potentially back out illegal aliens from -- from
- 11 the apportionment base.
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: On the
- 13 standing question, if the Court doesn't
- intervene now before the Secretary transmits the
- information to the President, I don't know when
- 16 the Court would be able to intervene. All --
- 17 all that would be left after that transmittal is
- 18 the transmittal by the President to -- to the
- 19 House.
- So, if -- if the injury can't be
- 21 redressed at this point, when could it be?
- 22 GENERAL WALL: In a post-apportionment
- 23 lawsuit, just as in Franklin or Wisconsin or --
- or Utah versus Evans, if the -- if the -- the
- 25 Bureau is able to feasibly identify enough

- 1 aliens and the President excludes those
- 2 categories and that affects the apportionment --
- 3 those are all three unknowns -- but if that
- 4 happens, then you have a post-apportionment
- 5 challenge just as in Franklin for the Secretary
- 6 to revise his report and for the President to
- 7 send a new report to the House, in effect, to
- 8 redo the apportionment.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But isn't that
- going to be like having to unscramble the eggs?
- I mean, the apportionment, any change in any one
- 12 state, of course, is going to have ripple
- effects all across the country, and it does seem
- 14 like it would be more manageable at an earlier
- 15 stage.
- 16 GENERAL WALL: Well, Mr. Chief
- Justice, I don't want to resist this too much
- 18 because we would prefer for the Court to reach
- 19 the merits and uphold the Presidential
- 20 Memorandum. We just think, for the reasons
- 21 given by the D.C. District Court last week,
- there are too many unknowns here.
- I do -- I take the point that there --
- there is a bit of an omelet to unscramble, but
- we do unscramble that in post-apportionment

1 lawsuits. So it's possible to enter relief. 2 And on the flip side, you could have 3 the Court issuing an opinion on what the President may or may not do, only to discover 4 days or weeks later that it's effectively 5 6 advisory because the numbers aren't large enough 7 to affect the apportionment and the appellees 8 here and other potential appellees wouldn't be 9 injured, either with respect to apportionment or 10 funding. 11 That strikes us as a fairly serious 12 problem, either as a matter of Article III 13 standing or prudential ripeness. 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: General, just 15 very quickly, should we assume that we're not 16 going to be talking about all illegal aliens in 17 the country but some subset, some uncertain 18 subset, like the ones in ICE detention? 19 GENERAL WALL: I think it is -- I think it is very fair to say, Mr. Chief Justice, 20 that the President has not made a determination 21 2.2 yet, because we don't know what's feasible, 23 about excluding all illegal aliens, and has 24 recognized that some subsets are going to be 25 much stronger cases for the exercise of his

- 1 discretion than other subsets. And that's --
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank -- thank
- 3 you, General.
- 4 Justice Thomas.
- 5 JUSTICE THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chief
- 6 Justice.
- 7 General Wall, I'd like you just to
- 8 discuss a bit as you understand the -- what
- 9 Respondent is arguing.
- 10 How does their alleged injury would be
- 11 redressable without including the or enjoining
- 12 the President? Because it's actually his
- decision that it seems that they're ultimately
- 14 concerned about.
- 15 GENERAL WALL: Well, I think that's a
- 16 fair point, Justice Thomas, but the Court
- 17 crossed that bridge in Utah v. Evans over a
- 18 dissent by Justice Scalia that the relief wasn't
- 19 redressable because relief couldn't run against
- 20 the President.
- 21 And the Court held in Utah, and no one
- 22 has asked here that that decision be overruled,
- 23 that it was fair -- that you could obviously
- 24 enjoin the Secretary as a subordinate official
- and that the judiciary would assume that the

- 1 President would comply.
- 2 And so too here. There's no reason to
- 3 believe that the President would not comply with
- 4 this Court's judgment either now or in a
- 5 post-apportionment context.
- 6 JUSTICE THOMAS: The -- in Utah, is my
- 7 understanding, that that was actually the
- 8 census, wasn't it?
- 9 GENERAL WALL: Yes, it was a -- it was
- 10 a challenge to certain procedures that were
- 11 being used with respect to the -- the census.
- 12 It was, in effect, a sampling claim.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Okay. But, here,
- we're talking about something separate from the
- 15 census, or am I -- am I mistaken?
- 16 GENERAL WALL: No, I -- I think that's
- 17 the other side's argument, Justice Thomas.
- 18 think they have -- they have seized on the fact
- that we've sometimes used the word "census" to
- 20 refer to the counting and said, a-ha, look, the
- 21 Census Bureau came up with a final number, and
- 22 the President essentially accepted that but then
- 23 sought to back out illegal aliens.
- 24 And I don't think that's right. The
- 25 Presidential Memorandum makes clear that he was

- 1 exercising his authority under Franklin to
- 2 determine the apportionment base after the
- 3 counting.
- 4 And so I -- I don't think -- it is
- 5 certainly our position that this is not somehow
- 6 outside or stands apart from the census.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Could you actually,
- 8 though, get the exact same information in a memo
- 9 that's from the Commerce Department or the
- 10 Census Bureau that says this is not the
- 11 Section 141 report, but here's our what we think
- 12 those numbers look like?
- 13 GENERAL WALL: The statutory scheme
- 14 seems to contemplate that the President will
- 15 rely on the Secretary's report in sending his
- 16 submission to Congress.
- Now Franklin says he's entitled to
- 18 reform the data that the Secretary gives him.
- 19 But I think it would be a much more
- 20 difficult question if he tried to act entirely
- 21 outside of the process that the statute set up.
- 22 And, obviously, here, he hasn't done that. He's
- just exercised his authority under Franklin to
- 24 tell the Secretary that he wants to look at
- 25 different sets of numbers so that he can make a

- decision about the apportionment base.
- 2 JUSTICE THOMAS: Well, it just seems
- 3 to me that, you know, the -- I don't understand
- 4 why you couldn't get the exact -- the President
- 5 couldn't get the exact same advice outside of
- 6 the context of a formal report with -- with
- 7 separate numbers and then make his decision.
- 8 But, beyond that, the Chief Justice
- 9 asked you about the subset, subcategories of --
- or subsets of illegal aliens. But could you
- give us your idea of what the President means
- 12 generically by "illegal alien"?
- GENERAL WALL: He means people who are
- 14 present in this country unlawfully, and that --
- 15 that -- that includes a number of different
- 16 subsets. We've named several of them in our
- 17 brief which I think are the clearest cases for
- 18 the exercise of the President's discretion, but
- 19 there are a number of other set -- subsets too.
- 20 But the entire category is -- is
- 21 people who are present in this country in
- 22 violation of federal law.
- JUSTICE THOMAS: Thank you, General
- 24 Wall.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice

- 1 Breyer.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Yes, thank you.
- I was also concerned with what Justice
- 4 Thomas brought up, and so, to clear away some
- 5 weeds from my mind, would you tell me where I
- 6 missed this or if I'm right.
- We're looking at a statute, 141. A
- 8 says the Secretary shall take a Decennial
- 9 Census, okay? B says the tabulation of the
- 10 population that he just took, as required for
- 11 the apportionment of representatives, that that
- 12 tabulation shall be reported to the Secretary --
- 13 by the Secretary to the President.
- 14 That's the report we're concerned
- 15 about. That's the tabulation we're concerned
- 16 about. And it is based on that, where you go to
- 17 2a, the President shall transmit a statement
- showing the whole number of persons for the
- 19 purpose, again, of apportionment.
- So we're not interested in other ways.
- 21 We're interested in this report, in this
- tabulation, under 141(b).
- Now, if I'm right so far, the
- 24 President's order says I'll tell you why I want
- 25 that. I want that because it's our policy that

- 1 illegal aliens will not be included in the
- 2 census. I can't tell you exactly what ones. It
- doesn't say that. It just says illegal aliens
- 4 will not be included. And he asked for the
- 5 report so he can do that.
- Now, if the Constitution forbids him
- 7 to, or if the statutes forbid him, to subtract
- 8 from the tabulation for purposes of the
- 9 statement, if it forbids him to subtract those
- 10 illegal aliens, or to the extent it does, the
- 11 tabulation and the report are not the tabulation
- 12 required for the apportionment of the census
- and, therefore, he cannot ask -- he cannot ask
- 14 the Secretary for that report to contain that
- 15 information.
- Right or wrong and, if wrong, why?
- 17 GENERAL WALL: I think I agreed with
- 18 you up to the very end, Justice Breyer. I think
- 19 you correctly understand how the statutory
- 20 provisions, which were passed together in 1929,
- 21 work.
- 22 And I -- I think it's true that if the
- 23 Constitution or the statutes constrain the
- 24 President's ability to back them out, then that
- 25 would mean that his statement -- setting aside

- 1 judicial review, his statement to Congress under
- 2 2a(a) would be unlawful.
- But I don't know that any of that is a
- 4 constraint on his ability to simply request the
- 5 information from the Secretary.
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, it is not the
- 7 information if it's unlawful that is required
- 8 for the apportionment of the House of
- 9 Representatives because it is illegal.
- Now whether it's illegal or not is a
- 11 different question. All we have on that is
- 12 about 40 briefs that show that the history, the
- language, the consequences, the purposes, and a
- bunch of other things argue against you, but you
- 15 have arguments against them.
- But, if that side wins, then I don't
- 17 see how the information he's requested could be
- 18 the information required for the apportionment
- 19 of representatives, quoting the statute.
- 20 GENERAL WALL: I think all I would
- 21 say, Justice Breyer, is I don't want to run
- 22 together the procedural and the substantive
- issues. I think what you're really getting at
- is the substantive issue of what the President's
- 25 powers are here, not any of the procedural

- 1 issues that they've raised with respect to the
- 2 -- to the memorandum.
- 3 So I -- I agree with you that what's
- 4 really at issue here is that substantive
- 5 question that you're focused on.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Well, maybe, but
- 7 we're not suing the President. They're not.
- 8 They're suing the Secretary. And they're
- 9 saying: Mr. Secretary, you cannot give to the
- 10 President this requested information and also
- 11 say that that piece of paper that you send him
- is the tabulation as required for the
- apportionment of representatives. It may be
- something else, but it isn't that. And that's
- what he's asked you to do, and that's what
- 16 you're trying to do. And, Mr. Secretary, if
- it's illegal, you can't do it.
- 18 GENERAL WALL: That's right, Justice
- 19 Breyer. My only point was that doesn't have
- anything to do with their procedural arguments
- 21 about the use of administrative records and
- 22 whether this is somehow part of the census.
- JUSTICE BREYER: No, it doesn't.
- 24 GENERAL WALL: That's all just their
- 25 substantive claim --

1 JUSTICE BREYER: Yeah. 2 GENERAL WALL: -- that the President 3 doesn't have the power to ask for the --4 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay, okay. Then they don't -- on that one, it says "persons," 5 this started in 1820, you know, and they've 6 7 always counted people who were here and not naturalized, and this has never happened before 8 9 that you excluded illegal aliens, and it has a 10 lot of negative effects on the states. You know 11 all those arguments. And they're -- I think 12 they're fairly strong ones. 13 GENERAL WALL: Justice --14 JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, what do you -- what do you want to say? They're persons, 15 16 aren't they? 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Briefly, 18 counsel. 19 GENERAL WALL: So just very briefly, 20 Justice Breyer, there's two different things 21 there. One is the historical practice, which I 2.2 hope I'll be able to address later because I think Franklin takes care of that. The other is 23 24 the text and the history. None of that goes 25 specifically to the question of illegal aliens.

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Alito.
2	JUSTICE ALITO: General Wall, if I
3	can, I want to try to press you a little bit on
4	some of the answers you gave to the Chief
5	Justice because I find the posture of this case
6	quite frustrating.
7	It could be that we are dealing with a
8	possibility that is quite important. It could
9	be that this is much ado about very little. It
10	depends on what the Census Bureau and the
11	Department of Commerce are able to do.
12	If I just take the numbers from the
13	district court in D.C.'s opinion last week, they
14	said that the the plaintiffs in that case
15	were claiming that there are 10.5 million people
16	in this country who would be counted as being
17	here illegally, but if you look at the smaller
18	number of of those who are held in detention
19	facilities, it's it's something like 60,000.
20	The first number could easily change
21	the apportionment of representatives. The
22	second one, it's much more doubtful that it
23	would change the apportionment of
24	representatives.
25	There are only 31 days left in the

- 1 year. To exclude the 10.5 million seems to me a
- 2 monumental task, to do that without sampling, to
- 3 take 300 million plus names and determine
- 4 individually for each of those people whether
- 5 they are lawfully in the United States.
- 6 And I would think you would be able to
- 7 tell us whether that remains a realistic
- 8 possibility at this point.
- 9 GENERAL WALL: Justice --
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: Can you not provide us
- 11 with any more information than what you provided
- in your answer to the Chief Justice, was that,
- 13 basically, they're working on it?
- 14 GENERAL WALL: Well, I can provide you
- 15 with a little bit more. I don't know how
- 16 satisfying it'll be, but I think it is very
- 17 unlikely that the Bureau will be able to
- 18 identify all or substantially all illegal aliens
- 19 present in the country. So anything like the 10
- or 11 or 12 million numbers that are flying
- 21 around.
- They will be able, I think, to do ICE
- facilities, which, as you say, is some number in
- the tens of thousands. The question is where it
- 25 will fall in the middle. And we don't know.

2.1

- 1 And the reason we don't know is because it -- it
- 2 -- it -- it turns a great deal on the level of
- detail that we got in doing the enumeration.
- 4 And until we actually take the census
- 5 master file and these various administrative
- 6 records, once they're all cleaned up and ready
- 7 to go, and we actually run the models in a few
- 8 weeks or, you know, whenever it is, we won't
- 9 actually know how many people we pick up.
- 10 And so, you know, I pressed the deputy
- 11 director of the Census Bureau on this very
- 12 question, and the simple fact is that the
- 13 experts don't know. They don't know whether
- 14 it'll be 50,000 or 100,000 or 500,000 or a
- 15 million. So there's just substantial
- 16 uncertainty.
- 17 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, before my time
- 18 runs out, I -- I'm -- I have no expertise
- 19 whatsoever in this area. I could understand if
- 20 they say all we can determine is how many people
- 21 are in detention facilities or subject to final
- 22 orders of removal.
- 23 If they're going for the bigger
- 24 picture and trying to identify everybody who is
- in this country unlawfully, I don't see how they

2.2

- 1 can provide a partial answer to that. If they
- were to say, well, you know, we've done this for
- 3 200 million people, but we don't know about the
- 4 100 million plus additional people, there's no
- 5 way an apportionment could be based on that, is
- 6 there?
- 7 GENERAL WALL: They're trying to get
- 8 the categories of illegal aliens that you could
- 9 identify based on the kinds of records we have,
- 10 so final orders of removal, for instance, or
- 11 people who have been removed who are found here
- 12 again and haven't been given any lawful status.
- So it's not that we can pick up
- 14 everyone. There will be some undetected illegal
- aliens who -- who we aren't even attempting to
- screen for because they wouldn't be picked up,
- obviously, by any record.
- 18 It's the categories that would be
- shown by some sort of record that we have. And
- the question is, just how feasible is it going
- 21 to be to capture large numbers within those
- 22 categories? And, unfortunately, we don't know
- 23 at this point.
- And it's a feature, by the way,
- though, I have to say, not of the government's

- 1 conduct. It's a feature of the fact that
- 2 appellees brought a pre-apportionment challenge
- 3 on the basis of this injury that was always
- 4 going to cease in the past --
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 6 Sotomayor.
- 7 GENERAL WALL: -- before the judgment
- 8 would take effect.
- 9 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 10 Sotomayor.
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Yes. Mr. Wall, as
- 12 I understand and read the memo, the President's
- memo, he says he intends to exclude every alien
- 14 who does not have permission to be here in the
- 15 United States.
- 16 Now, yes, he limits this to where it's
- feasible to identify that, but right now his
- 18 policy is, if I can identify them, no matter
- 19 what the reason is for them being illegal -- an
- 20 illegal alien, I'm going to exclude them from
- 21 the census.
- 22 Following up on Justice Alito's
- 23 question, aren't those the very categories that
- you already say that we've been told there have
- 25 been some of them, who's in ICE is going to come

2.4

- 1 by December 31, and then, by January 11, the
- 2 Census Bureau says that it intends to provide
- 3 the President with the information "necessary to
- 4 fully implement the Presidential Memorandum."
- 5 I'm quoting the Census Bureau. So, if
- 6 I take that at its face, it means that the
- 7 number's not going to be 60,000. The number
- 8 intended is substantially large. And I think
- 9 that was Justice Alito's point, which is the
- 10 Census Bureau has been collecting data about
- 11 undocumented immigrants from other agencies for
- 12 over a year.
- I don't see how you can represent to
- 14 us that you don't think it's going to be a
- 15 substantial number.
- 16 GENERAL WALL: Three quick points,
- 17 Justice Sotomayor.
- 18 First, that's -- I don't think that's
- 19 actually an accurate statement of the
- 20 memorandum. You're certainly right that that's
- 21 the policy, but there are two built-in
- 22 limitations. One is whether it's feasible, and
- 23 the second is whether the President decides that
- 24 he has the legal discretion to exclude all of
- 25 these subsets. And the subsets might have

- 1 different legal analysis depending on the kind
- of ties they have or the type of status they --
- 3 they -- they have.
- 4 But the second, the fact --
- 5 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Wall, I -- I'm
- 6 a little bit questioning of that for the
- 7 following reason: The Census Bureau already
- 8 defines what residency is, where you're living
- 9 as a snapshot date of April 1, 2020.
- Now, whether you're in a prison, in
- 11 ICE detention, we're told by one of our amici
- that 57 percent of the people in detention will
- eventually be released to the United States
- 14 either through asylum or through some other
- 15 mechanism.
- So I am not sure how you can identify
- 17 any class of immigrant that isn't living here in
- its traditional sense, that this is where they
- 19 are, this is where they were on April 1, and
- where they intend to stay if they can find any
- 21 way to do it.
- 22 GENERAL WALL: Justice Sotomayor,
- 23 based on my understanding from the Census
- 24 Bureau, there is a real prospect that the
- 25 numbers will not affect the apportionment. But,

- 1 as I said earlier to the Chief Justice, I'm
- 2 perfectly happy if the Court disagrees with us
- 3 on that and disagrees with the analysis of the
- 4 D.C. District Court last week and moves to the
- 5 merits because we think, on the merits, the
- 6 Court should uphold the Presidential Memorandum
- 7 because at least some of the illegal aliens
- 8 captured by the Presidential Memorandum don't
- 9 satisfy the test for inhabitancy either as a
- 10 matter of the Constitution or the statutes.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, what you're
- 12 saying is the memo says, I think anyone -- the
- 13 Presidential memo says, I think anyone without
- papers should not be counted. Now you're
- 15 saying: Well, maybe the President will limit
- 16 that sub-category.
- 17 But that's not what he's asking for.
- 18 He's asking for all of those illegal aliens that
- 19 can be unidentified.
- 20 And wouldn't Heller defeat this
- 21 argument that we shouldn't rule? In Heller, we
- 22 knew that there were certain people who states
- could legitimately bar from possessing guns in
- their homes, but we didn't say because there's
- 25 that subset we're not going to declare what the

1 general law is. 2 So why shouldn't we do the same thing 3 here, you can't exclude illegal aliens may -because they're undocumented? 4 GENERAL WALL: The Court would have to 5 6 conclude, in order to say that, as the district 7 court here did, that the President doesn't have the discretion to exclude any illegal aliens 8 9 from the apportionment base, even some subset, 10 because the injunction here prohibits him from 11 getting any of the information he needs to 12 exclude any subset. 13 And he did make clear in the 14 memorandum that although, as a matter of policy, 15 he wanted to exclude the entire set, that he had 16 not yet made a judgment on whether he had the 17 legal discretion to do that for the entire 18 class. He wanted to see what the people --19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan. GENERAL WALL: -- in the Bureau --20 21 JUSTICE KAGAN: But, General Wall, I 2.2 quess I'd like to keep going with the line of 23 questioning that the Chief Justice and Justice Alito talked about as to what categories we're 24 25 talking about.

- 1 As I read you, you're saying, well,
- 2 yes, there's this small category of ICE
- detainees, that seems pretty feasible, but
- 4 that's just tens of thousands of people. So how
- 5 about a few others?
- 6 As I understand it, there are almost
- 7 200,000 persons who are subject to final orders
- 8 of removal. Will the Bureau be able to report
- 9 on those?
- 10 GENERAL WALL: It is working very hard
- 11 to try to report on that subset, yes.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. There are
- 700,000 DACA recipients. Will the Bureau be
- able to report on those?
- 15 GENERAL WALL: It is working on that
- 16 too. We can't be certain at this point, and we
- don't know what the President will decide to do
- 18 with respect to that set. He hasn't --
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: Right. I mean, you --
- 20 I mean, obviously, you have papers, all kinds of
- 21 records on those people, so I -- I would think
- that that sounds pretty feasible to me.
- 23 GENERAL WALL: But -- but the problem
- is the matching, Justice Kagan, right? We -- we
- 25 have the administrative records. What we don't

- 1 know is the number that participated in the
- 2 census, either through questionnaires or other
- 3 proxies, and that provided sufficient detail to
- 4 do the matching. That's the problem here.
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. How about the
- 6 3.2 million non-detained individuals in removal
- 7 proceedings?
- 8 GENERAL WALL: It's the same thing.
- 9 We have to have reliable information on them and
- that information has to match up with what they
- 11 provided to the census. So we --
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: Okay. So what I'm --
- what I'm getting from you is we can get very
- easily to 4 or 5 million people who you have
- extensive administrative records on, and you're
- 16 saying, well, there's a matching problem.
- 17 So I guess this goes back to Justice
- 18 Alito's question. You're 30 days out. It seems
- 19 to me you either know whether you can do
- 20 matching or you don't know whether you can do
- 21 matching. Why the uncertainty on this?
- 22 GENERAL WALL: Be -- because, until
- you actually compare the one set against the
- other set, you just don't know how many hits
- 25 you'll get.

1 But, again, Justice Kagan, I'd -- I'd love to move to the merits because, if the Court 2 3 decides we're wrong and that this really is teed up constitutionally or prudentially, even though 4 there may not be an effect on apportionment, I 5 6 think that there are good reasons that we 7 haven't yet talked about why the entire category of illegal aliens shouldn't be thought to 8 9 qualify under the inhabitancy test. 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: Can I ask you, before 11 we go to the merits, Mr. Wall, how would a 12 post-apportionment challenge of the kind you talked about earlier work? It seems to me that 13 14 the time period, once it's post-apportionment, 15 is very crunched. States have to do their own 16 redistricting. How exactly does that work? 17 What's the time line on it? 18 GENERAL WALL: Well, here, the time 19 line's even easier than in a normal case because the district courts have already decided the 20 21 merits. So I think this is going to move even 2.2 more quickly than this round of litigation, 23 which obviously only took a few months. 24 But you bring the -- you bring the 25 case, you get the order to the Secretary to --

- 1 to fix the report, and then the executive branch
- 2 would have the option of seeking review in this
- 3 Court. That could all play itself out fairly
- 4 quickly, I think.
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Fairly quickly. Like,
- 6 what -- what -- what do you think it would play
- 7 itself out to?
- 8 GENERAL WALL: I think --
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: Like, when would the
- 10 end date be?
- 11 GENERAL WALL: I -- I -- it's -- I
- 12 couldn't say, Justice Kagan, because it depends
- on when the report gets to the the President,
- 14 how quickly the district courts enter relief,
- and then the party that's, you know, aggrieved
- 16 comes up to this Court, but I would think a
- 17 matter of a few months.
- 18 JUSTICE KAGAN: Do you think that
- 19 given that you're uncertain when the report will
- 20 go to the President -- this goes back to the
- 21 Chief Justice's first question -- that there's
- 22 something to be said for not following the
- 23 expedate -- expedited procedures that -- that
- 24 you asked us to follow and just sort of keeping
- 25 this around in a normal way and you could tell

- 1 us whether expedition was necessary when you
- 2 knew?
- 3 GENERAL WALL: I think the problem,
- 4 Justice Kagan, is this is all fairly
- fast-moving, and if the Court doesn't enter some
- 6 kind of relief, we would face a real prospect
- 7 that the Secretary would never be able to send
- 8 the report to the President, and the President
- 9 then wouldn't be able to turn around and send a
- 10 -- a report to Congress.
- So, no, there's a live -- you know,
- there's a live controversy between the parties
- in -- in that sense, which is we want to be able
- 14 to have the President exercise his power, and
- the injunction currently blocks us from doing
- 16 that. It's just no longer founded on some
- injury to the appellees that is sufficient for
- 18 standing or ripeness purposes.
- 19 JUSTICE KAGAN: Thank you, General.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 21 Gorsuch.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Good morning, Mr.
- 23 Wall. I'd -- I'd -- I'd like to, just to press
- 24 you a little bit further, on what are the --
- 25 what are the practical difficulties and -- and

- 1 -- and likelihood of actually being able to do
- 2 the matching process with respect to various
- 3 categories?
- 4 It -- it -- it seems like the one
- 5 common ground is the 10,000 or whatever number
- 6 it is currently in ICE detention is something
- 7 you think will -- will happen.
- 8 Beyond that, can you give us any sense
- 9 of the difficulties or likelihoods?
- 10 GENERAL WALL: I can't, Justice
- 11 Gorsuch. I -- I -- I -- the Bureau is working
- very hard, but, as I say, until they actually do
- 13 the comparison, we just won't know how many
- identifications we're able to make and whether
- that stands to affect the apportionment.
- 16 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So is -- is -- is it
- 17 a reasonable -- reasonable prospect to think
- 18 that it would be limited to the number of
- 19 persons currently in ICE detention?
- 20 GENERAL WALL: I think that's
- 21 possible, but it is also very possible that they
- 22 will be able to do more. As I say, we just --
- 23 we don't know at this point.
- I wish I could provide the Court with
- 25 more certainty. I can't. That's why we think

- 1 that the -- the Court should vacate the judgment
- 2 and not get into this.
- But, if the Court disagrees, as I say,
- 4 I -- I would love an opportunity to turn to the
- 5 merits and talk about why I think they can't
- 6 satisfy either half of the usual resident test,
- 7 either the residency or the usual or settled
- 8 requirement.
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I -- I have a
- 10 question in a -- in an entirely different
- 11 direction. Your -- your colleagues from the
- other side pointed in a footnote, I believe it
- was, in their briefs, to the Federal Reports
- 14 Elimination and Sunset Act of -- in the 1990s,
- which looks like it may have well repealed
- 16 Section 2.
- 17 And so are we arguing over the meaning
- of a statute that doesn't exist? I had hoped to
- 19 get some response from the government on that in
- its reply brief but didn't see any. Perhaps I
- 21 missed it.
- 22 And what -- what is the government's
- 23 view about the status of Section 2? New York
- 24 suggests, well, maybe it is repealed, but to the
- 25 extent the government wishes to comply with the

- 1 repealed statute, it has to follow the repealed
- 2 statute's terms, as one response.
- 3 Another response is that the -- that
- 4 the only thing repealed were reports and this is
- 5 a statement.
- 6 Does the government have any views on
- 7 any of that?
- 8 GENERAL WALL: Yes. In -- in our
- 9 view, it's not an annual, semi-annual, or other
- 10 periodic report covered by FRSA, the statement,
- which is why, in 2001 and 2011, the executive
- 12 branch sent over the statement and the House
- 13 reapportioned as the statutes require. It's
- 14 never been litigated.
- I'm -- I'm not aware if we've even
- 16 ever briefed it. But we have -- in our view,
- there were various things on the clerk's list
- 18 that I think do -- clearly do not qualify as the
- 19 type of report covered by FRSA.
- 20 And in our view, this statement under
- 21 2a(a) is like those things. It's -- it's not a
- 22 other periodic report.
- 23 JUSTICE GORSUCH: What do we do about
- 24 the fact that it appears to be expressly
- 25 referenced by statute in -- in the -- in the

- 1 reports the President continues, the Decennial
- 2 Census report, Section 2a, right -- right there
- 3 listed?
- 4 GENERAL WALL: So, sorry, just to be
- 5 more clear, we don't think the language picked
- 6 up everything in the clerk's list because there
- 7 were things on the clerk's list that wouldn't
- 8 qualify. It only picked up things on the
- 9 clerk's list that said -- that qualify as an
- annual, semi-annual, or other periodic report.
- 11 We don't --
- 12 JUSTICE GORSUCH: And periodic doesn't
- include every 10 years?
- 14 GENERAL WALL: We don't think --
- 15 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Is that the -- is
- 16 that the government's view?
- 17 GENERAL WALL: We don't think the
- 18 other periodic report picks up the statement
- 19 which there's a deadline under this statute, but
- it's not as if it has to go over at -- at some
- 21 set period or on a particular date every time.
- 22 So we don't think that statement qualifies.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Okay. If -- if I --
- 24 if I were to disagree with you and think that
- 25 every 10 years does appear to be a regular

- 1 periodic report specified by -- by -- on a
- 2 list, what -- what then?
- 3 GENERAL WALL: I suppose there'd have
- 4 to be supplemental briefing from the parties,
- 5 Justice Gorsuch. It's not jurisdictional and
- 6 nobody's raised or addressed this.
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: All right. All
- 8 right.
- 9 GENERAL WALL: Nobody's raised or
- 10 addressed it.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Thank -- thank you,
- 12 Mr. Wall.
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 14 Kavanaugh.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you, Chief
- 16 Justice.
- 17 And good morning, General Wall. You
- 18 -- you forcefully argue that there's too much
- 19 uncertainty, that the dispute will become a
- 20 concrete Article III controversy only after the
- 21 President transmits the statement. But I want
- 22 to button up some things on that to make sure
- we're on the same page and follow up a bit on
- 24 what Justice Kagan was asking you.
- 25 First of all, you're not saying, as to

- judicial review, not now, not ever. You're just
- 2 saying not now as I understand it.
- But, as Justice Breyer indicated, the
- 4 posture of this will change after the President
- 5 transmits the statement, and there's a question
- 6 about injunctive relief against the President.
- 7 So I think you're saying that we can assume, as
- 8 the Court has before, that the President would
- 9 comply by a declaratory judgment requiring him
- 10 to transmit calculations that include those
- 11 non-citizens living -- living unlawfully within
- 12 the country if we were to issue such an order
- 13 after the President transmits the statement. Is
- 14 that accurate?
- 15 GENERAL WALL: Yes.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Your argument for
- waiting is based on uncertainty, uncertainty,
- 18 again, as Justice Kagan and the Chief Justice
- 19 and Justice Alito were asking about the numbers,
- 20 but one thing that was in the D -- D.C. opinion
- of Judge Katsas, as joined by Judge Friedrich,
- 22 was that it will be not possible to exclude all
- 23 non-citizens living in -- unlawfully in the
- 24 country because that would require the use of
- 25 sampling, is what the opinion said, and that the

- 1 memorandum, the Presidential Memorandum, rules
- 2 out the possibility of using an unlawful method.
- 4 response to that?
- 5 GENERAL WALL: We're not sampling.
- 6 This is what I was trying to say to Justice
- 7 Kagan earlier. We're taking the records from
- 8 the -- the -- the administrative agencies and
- 9 we're taking the data given by individuals with
- 10 respect to the census and we're comparing them.
- We're literally trying to individually identify
- 12 people who are present in the United States in
- 13 violation of federal law.
- And because we are not sampling and we
- are doing this fairly cumbersome matching
- 16 process, it's just not clear what results we're
- 17 going to get or whether it's going to affect the
- 18 apportionment.
- 19 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, is it
- 20 possible to exclude -- is it possible to get the
- 21 information to exclude all non-citizens living
- 22 unlawfully in the country, or is it possible
- 23 only to get information as to subsets at this
- 24 point? You may not know the answer to that.
- 25 GENERAL WALL: No, the latter. It is

- only possible -- the records will only cover
- 2 particular subsets.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Okay. So it's not
- 4 possible to exclude all non-citizens living
- 5 unlawfully in the country, correct?
- 6 GENERAL WALL: No. If you took
- 7 somebody who crossed the border illegally, was
- 8 undetected, and did not participate in the
- 9 census, that person might not be found in any
- 10 administrative record, and they wouldn't be on
- 11 the other side of the ledger either because they
- 12 didn't participate in the census.
- 13 That person just would not be captured
- 14 by this process, not even arguably.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And then, on the
- 16 question of ripeness or standing, our -- our
- doctrine, as I see it, parts of the ripeness
- inquiry are really similar, if not identical, to
- 19 parts of the standing inquiry, if you look at
- 20 the phrasing in cases like Ohio Forestry on
- 21 ripeness and cases like Susan B. Anthony on
- 22 standing.
- The key point, I think, is that the
- 24 memorandum imposes no obligations on the
- 25 plaintiffs to do anything at that -- at this

- 1 point, unlike, for example, a typical agency
- 2 regulation that might, say, impose some duties
- 3 or requirements on the plaintiffs and we allow
- 4 pre-enforcement challenges.
- We've called that lack of ripeness.
- 6 We've called that no standing. Do you think it
- 7 matters which we call it, and do you agree that
- 8 the two inquiries overlap on that particular
- 9 kind of analysis?
- 10 GENERAL WALL: Yes, there is
- 11 substantial overlap. We framed it as a
- 12 constitutional matter because we don't think
- they satisfy the constitutional minima, but if
- 14 you thought they got the toe over that line,
- then you'd get the same analysis, I think, as
- 16 the -- as Judges Katsas and Friedrich did as a
- 17 matter of prudential ripeness.
- 18 So I -- I agree that there is a lot of
- 19 overlap. And, obviously, under Steel Co. and
- 20 Senken, you can do prudential ripeness before
- 21 the merits because it's -- it's a threshold
- 22 doctrine. So nothing requires the Court to do
- 23 Article III rather than to do it as a prudential
- 24 matter.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you,

- 1 General.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 3 Barrett.
- 4 JUSTICE BARRETT: Good morning,
- 5 General Wall. I'm going to let you talk about
- 6 the merits for a minute here. You know, as
- 7 Justice Breyer said, a lot of the historical
- 8 evidence and longstanding practice really cuts
- 9 against your position. And, you know, there's
- 10 evidence that in the founding era, an inhabitant
- 11 was a dweller who lives or resides in a place.
- 12 You do have this Vattel quote that
- defines an inhabitant as a -- distinguished from
- a citizen, as a stranger who's permitted to
- 15 settle and stay in the country.
- 16 Do you think that Vattel quote is your
- 17 best evidence?
- 18 GENERAL WALL: Well if you look only
- 19 at the founding, I think the Vattel quote is
- 20 good. I think Madison in Federalist 42, when he
- 21 talks about a state allowing you to become an
- 22 inhabitant, is fairly powerful.
- 23 And what I'd say is, look, there isn't
- 24 a lot of attention given to the specific
- 25 question of illegal aliens for the first half of

- 1 the country for obvious reasons, but the Court
- 2 does have to deal with the residence or dwelling
- 3 question in other statutes. And the answer it
- 4 consistently comes back with is, if you've
- 5 entered illegally, you are not treated as if
- 6 you're dwelling or residing here; you're treated
- 7 as if you're stopped at the border.
- 8 And the other side doesn't really have
- 9 any answer to why those cases shouldn't equally
- apply here and say, look, if the test is usual
- or settled resident, you're not thought to be a
- resident, and even if you are, there's nothing
- 13 usual or settled about your residence if your
- 14 presence is violating federal law and the
- sovereign hasn't agreed to let you stay.
- 16 JUSTICE BARRETT: But, if -- if an
- 17 undocumented person has been in the country for,
- 18 say, 20 years, you know, even if illegally, as
- 19 you say, why would some person not have a --
- 20 such a person not have a settled residence here?
- 21 GENERAL WALL: So take long-term
- 22 embassy personnel, so somebody who's worked at
- an embassy for 15 or 20 years, Justice Barrett.
- 24 That person certainly has ties to the community,
- and yet we have excluded them in some past

- 1 censuses because they're not the sort of ties,
- 2 just as with illegal aliens, that amount to
- 3 residence or dwelling or what Franklin calls
- 4 allegiance or an enduring tie.
- 5 And so too federal personnel overseas.
- 6 They're not residing here. They may spend years
- 7 at a time abroad, but we still think they have
- 8 the kind of tie that counts here.
- 9 And so I think -- I'm not disputing at
- 10 all that illegal aliens form ties to the
- 11 community in -- in the sense you're talking
- 12 about. But they're not the sort of ties that
- are sufficient to qualify you within the
- 14 apportionment base because they don't count for
- 15 residence or dwelling within the meaning of
- 16 these federal statutes.
- 17 JUSTICE BARRETT: But you concede that
- 18 illegal aliens have never been excluded as a
- 19 category from the census?
- 20 GENERAL WALL: Well, yes, we have
- 21 taken account of alienage in certain ways
- 22 before, but, yes, and that's the best argument
- 23 on the other side. There is a historical
- 24 practice. And if we didn't have Franklin, it
- 25 could be tougher for us. But we know from

- 1 Franklin that the fact that you've got a fairly
- 2 unbroken practice doesn't necessarily mean it's
- 3 constitutionally compelled.
- 4 They need some evidence that that has
- 5 to be the rule as a constitutional or statutory
- 6 matter, and that's what they don't have. They
- 7 have a bunch of historical evidence that they --
- 8 that the founders and the framers of the
- 9 Fourteenth Amendment didn't want to limit it to
- 10 citizens or voters, completely agreed with --
- 11 with all of that.
- But what they don't have is any
- 13 evidence that they specifically wanted to
- include illegal aliens because they thought even
- if you came here in violation of the law, you
- 16 were nevertheless an inhabitant. That's the
- 17 very question that in other contexts the Court
- has answered in the negative by saying you're
- 19 not a resident.
- 20 JUSTICE BARRETT: So it's just been an
- 21 unexercised discretion; all along they could
- 22 have been excluded from the sentence -- census,
- and the fact they had not been excluded before
- 24 doesn't mean the President can't make the choice
- 25 to do so now?

Т	GENERAL WALL: Well, so too in
2	Franklin, Justice Barrett, but I guess I'd
3	qualify it a little bit. For the first half of
4	the the nation's history, the question
5	doesn't come up because you don't have federal
6	immigration restrictions. And for the second
7	much of the second half, it doesn't matter
8	nearly as much as it matters now.
9	So, look, I'll certainly grant that no
10	President has made this judgment before. No
11	President's ever focused on it before. But I
12	think, in order to say, as in Franklin, that the
13	President can't do this, he can't include
14	there, it was federal overseas personnel, even
15	though they hadn't been included for, you know,
16	a host of censuses, they need to point to
17	something in the text or the history that
18	clearly mandates that they be included in the
19	apportionment base.
20	And that's every illegal alien. It's
21	not the only only the ones you were talking
22	about that have ties to the community. It's
23	somebody who's apprehended at the border and in
24	an ICE detention facility, sometimes only for a
25	day or two before being sent back to Mexico or

- 1 the northern triangle.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: A minute to --
- 3 GENERAL WALL: They need --
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- a minute to
- 5 wrap up, General Wall.
- 6 GENERAL WALL: Thank you, Mr. Chief
- 7 Justice.
- 8 So, just as I was saying earlier, we
- 9 think that there are a handful of unknowns here:
- 10 what will be feasible for the Bureau to do,
- 11 whether the President will decide to exclude all
- of the subsets that are feasible -- the
- 13 memorandum clearly indicates that the President
- 14 hasn't made that legal judgment; it's made a
- 15 policy call but not the legal judgment -- and
- 16 the effect on apportionment.
- 17 And as I said to Justice Kavanaugh, we
- don't think it matters whether the Court labels
- 19 that under Article III or prudential ripeness,
- 20 but we're happy for the Court to disagree and go
- 21 to the merits because there is a fairly small
- 22 window of time here for the Court to decide the
- 23 merits on the merits. They can't satisfy either
- 24 half of the test. They're not residents and
- 25 there's nothing settled about their residence.

1 And they've not offered any coherent theory of 2 political representation why all illegal aliens 3 should be included in the apportionment base. For those reasons, if the Court 4 reaches the merits, we think it should reverse 5 6 and uphold the memorandum. 7 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, General Wall. 8 General Underwood. 9 ORAL ARGUMENT OF BARBARA D. UNDERWOOD 10 11 ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT APPELLEES 12 MS. UNDERWOOD: Mr. Chief Justice, 13 and may it please the Court: 14 The Constitution and laws require the seats in the House be apportioned according to 15 16 the number of persons in each state. 17 President's new policy of refusing to count people who are not in a lawful immigration 18 19 status is flatly inconsistent with that command. Our laws reflect the deliberate choice 20 21 not to base apportionment on citizenship, voter 22 eligibility, or any other legal status but 23 instead to count the number of people living in 24 a state. That has always included people who 25 are ineligible to vote, including non-citizens,

- 1 and it has also included people who were present
- 2 in violation of law.
- 3 The memorandum treats counting people
- 4 as a reward to be withheld from states that
- 5 house undocumented immigrants. But our law
- 6 views counting people for apportionment as
- 7 finding fact, not giving and withholding
- 8 rewards.
- 9 The memorandum pretends that if under
- 10 the law a person should not be here, then the
- 11 person is not here. The government can do many
- things to induce undocumented immigrants to
- 13 leave, but it cannot declare them to be gone
- when, in fact, they're here and likely to
- 15 remain.
- My friend says the policy must be
- 17 upheld because some undocumented immigrants
- 18 could be excluded from the count. Whether they
- 19 could is disputed, but, in any case, that would
- 20 not support this policy, which applies to all
- 21 undocumented immigrants, and refuses to count
- them solely on the basis of undocumented status.
- 23 As this Court recognized in Shelby County, an
- 24 unlawful policy can't be saved by the
- 25 possibility that a lawful policy could be

- 1 written.
- 2 The question here is whether a blanket
- 3 policy of not counting undocumented immigrants
- 4 is lawful, and it's not because undocumented
- 5 status alone doesn't tell us where a person
- 6 usually resides. This policy ignores the
- 7 undisputed fact that millions of undocumented
- 8 immigrants have lived here for decades and have
- 9 substantial community ties. Their undocumented
- 10 status doesn't erase their presence.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: General
- 12 Underwood, could you tell me precisely what the
- 13 relief is that you seek? An order from the
- 14 Court saying what?
- 15 MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, an affirmance of
- the injunction below, which was to declare the
- 17 policy invalid, in violation of law and the
- 18 Constitution as well, but the statute would do,
- and an injunction against transmitting the
- 20 information about undocumented persons as part
- 21 of the report on which --
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, that's
- 23 -- that's the precise issue I want to focus on.
- 24 It -- it -- it seems to me that you're asking
- 25 really for a gag order on the Secretary of

- 1 Commerce concerning his communications to the
- 2 President.
- 3 MS. UNDERWOOD: No --
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Let's suppose
- 5 -- let's suppose that the Secretary conducts the
- 6 census and prepares the tabulation exactly as
- 7 you would have it and puts that in an envelope
- 8 to send to the President, but it also in a
- 9 separate envelope puts information on the number
- of illegal aliens and he sends both of those
- 11 envelopes to the President.
- 12 Is that fine with you?
- MS. UNDERWOOD: That does -- yes, that
- does not violate the injunction. There is no
- 15 gag order to be placed on the Secretary of
- 16 Commerce. He can be asked for and respond with
- 17 all sorts of information.
- 18 But the 141 -- the -- the particular
- 19 statements and transmittals that are operative,
- 20 they aren't just the transmission of
- 21 information. They operate as steps in the
- 22 apportionment.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, but then
- 24 the President is --
- 25 MS. UNDERWOOD: Those the President

1 cannot --2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The -- the --3 the President, I would assume, is then free to report to the Congress information for the 4 apportionment, and he can -- it's okay, he can 5 6 do the math. He can take what the census that 7 the Secretary has transmitted, as you would have it, and subtract the number of illegal aliens or 8 9 subcategories and use that information, can't 10 he? MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, we are now at 11 12 the point where, if -- if you issued a 13 declaratory judgment saying that that policy is 14 unlawful, and my friend on the other side has 15 said the President would comply with such a 16 declaratory judgment, then the answer is, well, 17 he would have the information, and in principle, 18 he could use it. He couldn't issue a report to 19 Congress that was in violation of the 20 Constitution or law. 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, 2.2 General. 23 Justice Thomas. 24 JUSTICE THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chief

25

Justice.

1 General Underwood, I'm a little 2 confused. The -- did I understand you to say 3 that if the Census Bureau sent the information in a separate envelope, that would be fine, at 4 least if -- if it was labeled not the 1 --5 6 Section 141 report? 7 MS. UNDERWOOD: It would not -- yes, it would not violate the law. It would be a 8 transmission of information. 9 10 JUSTICE THOMAS: So what does that 11 accomplish? Because I thought your -- your --12 your major concern is the use of that information by the President. 13 14 MS. UNDERWOOD: That's correct, that -- the concern is that. And in the course of 15 directing the Secretary not to transmit this as 16 17 part of a report, this Court would presumably also declare that the use of it was unlawful 18 19 without enjoining the President, because there 20 is that problem about injunctions against the 21 President. 2.2 JUSTICE THOMAS: So I'm trying to --23 your -- so I -- your argument is that if it's 24 sent separately, it can't be used?

MS. UNDERWOOD: In the apportionment,

- 1 that's correct. It might be usable for many
- 2 other things, but not as part of the
- 3 apportionment.
- 4 JUSTICE THOMAS: Thank you.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 6 Breyer.
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: Thank you.
- 8 General Underwood, I think, are there
- 9 not, many statutes which divide funds among the
- 10 states on the basis of population, and then they
- 11 say something like "as shown by the most recent
- 12 Decennial Census," and does that tie that to the
- 13 141(b) report? I think it does.
- Do you know any -- are there not many
- 15 instances where it does?
- 16 MS. UNDERWOOD: There are many
- instances where the distribution of funds is
- 18 talked -- is -- is -- has to be derived from the
- 19 census. I suppose we have an argument about
- 20 whether -- we would argue that if the
- 21 information is used in the census and in the
- 22 report that is sent to Congress, it also will
- 23 have an effect on the distribution of funds.
- 24 If the information is sent separately,
- 25 then --

1 JUSTICE BREYER: That's not what I'm 2 thinking of. I'm thinking of, suppose this 3 141(b) report has both the number of illegal 4 immigrants, the illegal aliens, and also the 5 total census. Okay. What do you use? MS. UNDERWOOD: I don't think it can 6 7 have both. I -- the -- the --JUSTICE BREYER: I know. But on the 8 9 -- I didn't think that was your theory. I thought that's the government's theory. 10 11 MS. UNDERWOOD: Right. Right. 12 JUSTICE BREYER: So what happens under 13 their theory? 14 MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, I don't know 15 what happens under their theory. They have 16 sometimes said that a transmission of two sets 17 of numbers is all part of the 141(b) report, and 18 they have sometimes said it's separate. And I 19 don't know --20 JUSTICE BREYER: Okay. If we both 21 don't know --MS. UNDERWOOD: -- what we're to do. 2.2 23 JUSTICE BREYER: -- let -- let us go to a different question, which is I'd like to 24 know what you have to say about Franklin versus 25

- 1 Massachusetts.
- MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, Franklin/
- 3 Massachusetts, of course, said that the
- 4 Secretary has -- and the President have some
- 5 discretion, but it's not unlimited discretion.
- 6 Franklin recognized usual residents as
- 7 the test and then treated overseas government
- 8 workers like other situations recognized at the
- 9 founding, people absent from the state where
- 10 they have a residence and continuing ties and
- intend to return. They think of themselves as
- 12 away from home. And Franklin recognized that
- 13 that situation was suitable for the exercise of
- 14 executive discretion.
- 15 There is no support in that --
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice --
- 17 Justice Alito.
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: Thank you.
- I have two questions that are
- important to me. I hope I'm going to be able to
- 21 squeeze them both in in my time.
- The first concerns your answer that it
- would be fine for the Secretary of Commerce to
- 24 submit numbers that exclude illegal aliens if it
- 25 was done in a separate document.

1 Once you concede that, unless you are 2 asking us to overrule what Franklin said about 3 the President's directing the Secretary to reform the census, then I don't really 4 understand where your argument is going. 5 6 Suppose the -- suppose the tables were 7 turned. Suppose the President wanted to count every single person who was in the United States 8 9 on census day, but the Secretary of Commerce took it upon himself to give the President 10 11 numbers that excluded every illegal alien. 12 Do you think the President would then 13 be unable to direct the Secretary of Commerce to 14 reform those numbers and make them comply with 15 the theory that the President accept it? 16 MS. UNDERWOOD: The President would, 17 under Franklin, have the ability to direct a reformation of the census. There would be the 18 19 question -- the same question -- well, it would 20 be a different question. 21 There's always the question whether 2.2 that reformation is constitutional or not. You 23 know, it --JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah. Well, that goes 24 25 to the substance of the -- of the issue, which I

- do want to get to, but if the Secretary -- once
- 2 you concede that two documents are possible and
- 3 that the President can ask the Secretary to
- 4 reform the numbers that are sent to him, I don't
- 5 understand why there isn't a -- why -- why the
- 6 situation where both sets of figures are
- 7 submitted in a single document is any different?
- 8 It seems like a totally meaningless formality.
- 9 MS. UNDERWOOD: It's not a meaningless
- 10 formality in the sense that this is the moment
- in the process when judicial intervention can
- 12 operate. The problem arises because once the --
- 13 the President -- because -- because of the
- 14 reluctance of the Court to enjoin the President.
- So the injunction operates against the
- 16 Secretary and what he can transmit. And then
- 17 the President -- and -- and in telling the
- 18 Secretary what he can put in the -- in the 141
- 19 report, the Court will also be telling the
- 20 President what is lawful to use in his report to
- 21 Congress.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 23 Sotomayor.
- 24 JUSTICE ALITO: If I can -- if I can
- 25 move on to my second -- my second point. I want

- 1 to give you six categories of people and ask you
- 2 to answer yes or no, to the extent you can,
- 3 whether you think each of these -- people in
- 4 each of these categories must be counted for
- 5 apportionment purposes.
- 6 First category is a foreign diplomat
- 7 who is posted here for three years?
- MS. UNDERWOOD: No, because he's --
- 9 for several reasons. Because he's --
- 10 JUSTICE ALITO: Okay. Well, he's a
- 11 no, all right. A tourist who's here on a valid
- 12 visa?
- MS. UNDERWOOD: No.
- 14 JUSTICE ALITO: A tourist who
- overstays her visa and is therefore here
- 16 illegally?
- MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, that person is
- 18 now outside the realm of -- we expect them to
- 19 leave, and so that person is a resident like any
- 20 other undocumented person.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 22 Sotomayor.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Chief --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 25 Sotomayor.

1	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: General, I see
2	this as being very similar to Franklin because I
3	think you're arguing, and I think the Solicitor
4	General agreed, that the President has to use
5	only the numbers that are given to him by the
6	Secretary.
7	If the Secretary gives him illegal
8	numbers to exclude, then he can't use an outside
9	report to exclude those people from the
LO	apportionment. Is that correct?
L1	MS. UNDERWOOD: Cannot use he
L2	cannot do an illegal report, yes. And and
L3	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: He can't use a
L4	separate report. The tabulation has to provide
L5	him with the numbers that he uses, correct?
L6	MS. UNDERWOOD: Correct.
L7	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And so, if it is
L8	illegal for him to exclude illegal aliens
L9	sorry for for for that then we can do
20	exactly what we said could be done previously,
21	which is to order the Secretary not to give the
22	President illegal numbers, correct?
23	MS. UNDERWOOD: Correct.
24	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So that's your
2.5	point, which is, if he's going to tabulate and

- 1 exclude illegal aliens, we have to decide as a
- 2 matter of law whether the word "person," as used
- 3 in the statute and Constitution, who live here
- 4 permits the exclusion of illegal aliens,
- 5 correct? That's the legal question?
- 6 MS. UNDERWOOD: Correct.
- 7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: If he later
- 8 decides that he wants a particular category of
- 9 people to be excluded who are illegal aliens,
- 10 then he gives a memo to the Census Secretary
- 11 earlier that says: This category, I think,
- 12 should not be here for these reasons.
- 13 And if the Secretary says, I'll give
- 14 you those numbers, then we would have an
- 15 identical Franklin decision where they could
- 16 come in and sue and say to the Secretary: No,
- 17 you shouldn't permit those illegal aliens, or
- 18 yes, you should, whatever the answer is,
- 19 correct?
- MS. UNDERWOOD: Agreed, yes.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And that's what's
- 22 missing here, which is the President is asking
- 23 to exclude -- to give numbers on the category of
- 24 illegal -- illegal aliens that -- of any kind,
- and some of those numbers legitimately cannot be

included; that's your argument, correct? 1 2 MS. UNDERWOOD: Yes. 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan. JUSTICE KAGAN: General Underwood, if 4 I could take you back to the standing question. 5 6 This is the way I understood what came out of 7 General Wall's minutes. 8 You -- the government has tons of 9 records on tons of people. I mean, we're not 10 just talking about ICE detainees. By the time 11 you think about DACA recipients and people in 12 removal proceedings and a number of other categories, you easily get over 4 million 13 14 people. 15 But General Wall says that that's not 16 the problem. The problem is a matching problem. 17 And, essentially, the -- the Department has not 18 yet sort of gone through this process of trying 19 to match those numbers with the answers to the 20 census questionnaire. 21 Now I don't really quite understand 2.2 how that process works, so I'm wondering, if you 23 do, if you can tell me whether you think it's 24 credible that they, the Census Bureau, at this

point would not know approximately how many

- 1 people they'll be able to exclude of all the
- 2 people that they have administrative records on.
- 3 And I guess the second question would be, is
- 4 that what we should be focused on, or is that an
- 5 unimportant question?
- 6 MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, I am not a
- 7 master of the technology here. I do know that
- 8 there is a process by which matching occurs, and
- 9 I do not know -- I cannot opine on how
- 10 successful they will be.
- I can only say that what we have is a
- 12 lot of evidence that they have a lot of numbers
- available, that they are working as hard as they
- 14 can to do as much of this as they can, that
- 15 subtracting just some of that 4 million or so
- 16 from the count would be enough to take a seat
- away from one or more states, and that
- 18 speculation at this point -- what we have on the
- 19 side of uncertainty is speculation.
- 20 We have repeated representations from
- 21 the Census Bureau and the Department of Justice
- 22 that -- and -- that they are -- they've been
- working on this since July 2019, and they're now
- 24 starting to tell us about the categories that
- 25 they will be able to identify and match and

- 1 that, if there turns out to be a problem, there
- 2 isn't enough here to be the basis for any
- 3 judicial action. It's speculation that they
- 4 won't be able to do it at this point.
- 5 So it seems to me that it would make
- 6 sense, it might make sense, for this Court to
- 7 wait a couple of weeks and find out whether
- 8 there's more information that would shed some
- 9 light on this question.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 11 Gorsuch.
- 12 JUSTICE KAGAN: Thank you, General.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Good morning,
- 14 Ms. Understood. If it is a matter of
- speculation whether they're going to be able to
- include or exclude, why isn't that a standing
- 17 problem or a ripeness problem now, if -- if we
- 18 must rule now?
- 19 MS. UNDERWOOD: Because it's a
- 20 substantial --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: As I understand it,
- they can't use statistical sampling, so they're
- 23 going to have to match their detention records
- or their docket records against the actual
- 25 enumeration in -- in -- in the census.

1 And at the present, they tell us that 2 they might not be able to -- to do more than 3 maybe the aliens in ICE detention facilities, which would be in the tens of thousands and 4 perhaps not affect any apportionment at all. 5 MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, I think that 6 7 they're not saying they're only going to be able to do ICE detention. They're saying that that's 8 9 a group they already know they'll be able to do 10 and that they're working feverishly to do the 11 same for other groups. 12 And we know from the last round of 13 census litigation that they have the ability to 14 do matching. Now I can't speak to the 15 technology of it, but they were quite confident 16 that they were going to be able to do matching. 17 So it seems to me --18 JUSTICE GORSUCH: But -- but, 19 Ms. Underwood, I guess -- my question is, you 20 know, you -- you -- you concede that it's 21 speculative as to how much they're going to be 2.2 able to do. And once we've -- once we're in 23 that world, then it's speculative whether 24 there's going to be any effect on the 25 apportionment. And -- and in that world, we

- 1 have a standing problem, don't we?
- MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, I think that's
- 3 not quite the world we're in. I think we have a
- 4 substantial risk of injury. But all the
- 5 evidence until very recently was that they were
- 6 going to be able to do -- to implement the
- 7 Presidential Memorandum and that they are now,
- 8 just now, saying that they're not sure how fully
- 9 they're going to be able to do it.
- 10 So I think that's a substantial risk
- of injury sufficient for Article III standing,
- 12 and I think there could be, as a matter of
- 13 prudence, some interest in waiting to get more
- information since they seem to also be saying
- there will be more information very soon.
- 16 But I think --
- 17 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Thank you.
- MS. UNDERWOOD: -- we have Article III
- 19 standing. We have a substantial risk.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 21 Kavanaugh.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you, Chief
- Justice. And welcome, General Underwood.
- 24 As Justice Barrett's questioning
- 25 illuminated, I think, you have advanced forceful

- 1 constitutional and statutory arguments on the
- 2 merits of a categorical exclusion of all
- 3 unlawful non-citizens. But I'm not sure that's
- 4 going to be the dispute, and so I want to
- 5 explore that.
- If we said now, as you want us to say,
- 7 that the Secretary and the President cannot
- 8 exclude all non-citizens living here unlawfully,
- 9 as we say that, and then the President excludes
- 10 not all but some subsets, then we'll be right
- 11 back here with litigation. Correct?
- MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, I think that
- what you would have is you would have
- invalidated this policy and he couldn't act --
- and the Secretary couldn't act pursuant to this
- 16 policy.
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: But couldn't --
- MS. UNDERWOOD: And he'd have --
- 19 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I'm sorry to
- 20 interrupt -- couldn't he then substitute a new
- 21 policy consistent with the decision on all by
- 22 saying we're going to exclude some subsets and
- then there will be litigation on that and be
- 24 right back here, which is --
- MS. UNDERWOOD: Perhaps. Perhaps. I

- 1 mean, now we're -- now we're speculating more
- 2 about what he might -- might do. I think that
- 3 --
- 4 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Well, I think it's
- 5 -- I'm sorry to interrupt -- but I think the
- 6 Solicitor General has indicated it's going to be
- 7 very difficult, if not impossible, to exclude
- 8 all.
- 9 And I guess I'm wondering then, it
- 10 seems like part of this is -- and you -- you've
- 11 acknowledged this forthrightly -- is that the
- 12 difficulty of an injunction against the
- 13 President if we wait to post-apportionment but
- 14 -- or post-transmission -- but the President, we
- 15 have assumed in the past, would comply with a
- 16 declaratory judgment. We've said that. The
- 17 Solicitor General confirmed that today.
- 18 Does -- does that eliminate the
- 19 problem that has forced or encouraged you to
- 20 bring this litigation now?
- MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, it could
- 22 mitigate it, but even -- I mean, a declaratory
- judgment action has to be addressed to somebody
- 24 who -- who can act. I don't think you'll -- we
- 25 would -- you would issue a declaratory judgment

- 1 action against the President.
- 2 And if the Secretary has already done
- 3 everything he's going to do, then it's not clear
- 4 exactly who the appropriate recipient of that
- 5 declaration is.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 7 Barrett.
- 8 JUSTICE BARRETT: Good morning. I
- 9 have one question that's a follow-up to Justice
- 10 Kavanaugh's question. And that has to do with
- 11 the feasibility of counting all of these
- 12 categories of illegal aliens.
- 13 If, as General Wall said, the
- 14 President and the Secretary of Commerce are only
- able to identify certain categories and, as
- 16 Justice Kavanaugh said, if that means that there
- would be litigation on a case-by-case basis
- 18 about whether such categories should be in or
- out, doesn't that cut in favor of waiting, that
- 20 maybe there's no injury here because we're not
- 21 really sure what the contours of the decision
- 22 would be?
- MS. UNDERWOOD: Well, I -- I -- I
- 24 think I should just object to the idea that the
- categories are so small that they won't make a

- difference and that they would be litigated
- 2 one-by-one.
- 3 I -- I think that the policy that the
- 4 President articulated is as many as possible.
- 5 The memorandum -- while -- while Mr. Wall said
- 6 he was going to exercise, the President would
- 7 exercise discretion after the information came
- 8 in, the memo says to the maximum extent of the
- 9 President's discretion.
- 10 So the policy is clearly not to
- identify subcategories. It's to do as much as
- 12 possible. And the categories that are available
- are just going to be whatever they can find.
- 14 And I think this Court can speak to
- 15 that policy now. Is it likely that they would
- 16 come back with other new policies? Perhaps. I
- 17 don't think -- that would always be true. I
- don't think that's a reason not to decide the
- 19 question that's here now.
- 20 JUSTICE BARRETT: But what if -- what
- 21 if we say that he cannot categorically exclude
- 22 all illegal aliens? He says, fine, I'm not
- 23 going to do that. I'm going to count everyone
- 24 who is in an ICE detention facility, everyone
- who's in removal proceedings, and maybe say all

- 1 DACA recipients. But I agree, you know, I have
- 2 reasons for thinking each of these don't satisfy
- 3 the inhabitancy requirement.
- 4 Wouldn't you just be back litigating
- 5 those specific issues?
- MS. UNDERWOOD: Yes, I think we would,
- 7 yes.
- 8 JUSTICE BARRETT: Okay. Thank you.
- 9 My time's up.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: A minute to
- 11 wrap up, General Underwood.
- 12 MS. UNDERWOOD: The Constitution and
- laws provide that House seats should be
- 14 allocated on the basis of total population. The
- framers wanted a system that could not easily be
- 16 manipulated. So they decided to count just the
- 17 persons living in each state.
- The policy here would for the first
- 19 time in this nation's history reject that
- 20 choice. People who live in a state without
- 21 lawful immigration status still live there.
- 22 They are not invisible. And, like other
- residents, voting and non-voting, their presence
- 24 requires attention from the government, and the
- 25 need for representatives to give that attention.

1 That is the rationale for -- one 2 rationale for including them. The decision to 3 refuse to count them has produced a live controversy from the moment it was announced to 4 5 now. This Court should resolve the 6 7 controversy and reject a policy that would refuse to count millions of people who have 8 lived here for decades, have jobs, mortgages, 9 families, and community ties and reside in a 10 11 state under any reasonable interpretation of 12 those words. 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, 14 General. 15 Mr. Ho. 16 ORAL ARGUMENT OF DALE E. HO 17 ON BEHALF OF THE PRIVATE APPELLEES 18 MR. HO: Mr. Chief Justice and may it 19 please the Court: 20 For 230 years, dating to the founding, states have always held seats in the House 21 22 according to the number of persons in each state 23 without regard to immigration status. 24 Now, with respect to standing, the 25 test under Susan B. Anthony is whether there is

- 1 a substantial risk of injury. And past
- 2 experience shows that it's easy to risk changing
- 3 the apportionment.
- In Utah versus Evans, according to the
- 5 parties' summary judgment briefs, the practice
- of imputation added a total of 32,000 people in
- 7 North Carolina, and 5,000 in Utah.
- 8 And that difference was enough to
- 9 shift one seat from the latter to the former.
- 10 We know that the numbers -- the numbers here are
- 11 much bigger. As Justice Kagan pointed out, the
- 12 government has information on millions of
- 13 undocumented immigrants. And one and a half
- 14 years ago when the President issued an executive
- order in July of 2019, he stated that the
- 16 government could already match citizenship
- 17 records for 90 percent of the population.
- 18 So there's substantial risk of injury
- 19 now and it will be better to resolve this issue
- 20 now rather than in six months during the
- 21 redistricting process, which could be
- 22 disruptive.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Mr. Ho, what
- is the problem with post-apportionment
- litigation? Right now, as the questions have

- 1 shown, we don't know what the Secretary is going
- 2 to do. We don't know what the President is
- 3 going to do. We don't know how many aliens will
- 4 be excluded. We don't know what the effect of
- 5 that would be on apportionment.
- 6 All these questions would be resolved
- 7 if we wait until the apportionment takes place.
- 8 So why aren't we better advised to do that?
- 9 MR. HO: Well, I think waiting a
- 10 couple of weeks wouldn't be very disruptive, Mr.
- 11 Chief Justice, but the record establishes that
- 12 there is at least a substantial risk of a shift
- in the apportionment now, which is enough for
- 14 standing.
- 15 And if the question is should the
- 16 Court wait now or send this back for another
- 17 round of expedited proceedings, then there are
- many good reasons to decide this case now.
- The government argued that waiting
- 20 would deprive the nation of prompt notice of
- 21 reapportionment as required by statute, and that
- 22 it could be very disruptive to redistricting
- 23 processes in a number of states. In Texas --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, waiting
- a couple of weeks isn't going to give us much

- 1 more information than we have now. Waiting
- 2 until apportionment would give us all that
- 3 information that we -- we don't have.
- 4 MR. HO: I'm sorry, Mr. Chief Justice.
- 5 I did mean waiting the four weeks or so, maybe
- 6 four and a half or five weeks, depending upon
- 7 when the apportionment report is delivered, to
- 8 see what those numbers look like.
- 9 I'd agree that that short of a wait
- 10 wouldn't be disruptive. But if we're talking
- 11 about sending this case back for additional
- 12 proceedings in the district court, another
- expedited appeal, and doing this all over again
- over a period of several months, then that would
- be, I think, disruptive to ongoing redistricting
- 16 processes. In fact, the --
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
- 18 counsel. Justice Thomas.
- 19 JUSTICE THOMAS: Yes, thank you, Mr.
- 20 Chief Justice.
- 21 Mr. Ho, if the additional information
- 22 would be beneficial in a few weeks, wouldn't it
- 23 be beneficial to actually resolving this case?
- As the questioning seems -- seems to
- suggest, there's some difficulty in assessing

- 1 exactly what information will be available and
- 2 what that information will be.
- 3 MR. HO: Well, Justice Thomas, the
- 4 challenge here is to a policy that broadly
- 5 mandates the exclusion of undocumented
- 6 immigrants to the maximum extent under law.
- 7 And the government's position is that
- 8 under law all undocumented immigrants may be
- 9 excluded. As Solicitor General Wall noted,
- 10 their view is that the entire category of
- 11 undocumented immigrants are not inhabitants.
- 12 So the Court is presented with a
- facial challenge to a categorical policy. The
- 14 government has been free to issue a narrower
- 15 memorandum of excluding one or more subgroups as
- 16 purported non-residents, rather than taking aim
- 17 at undocumented immigrants writ large, and it
- 18 hasn't done that. And it's the categorical
- 19 policy that's at issue and it's unlawful.
- 20 JUSTICE THOMAS: Well, it -- I think
- 21 it would be the -- I think your argument would
- 22 be that the implementation of a categorical
- 23 policy would be unlawful, but what I'm hearing
- is that we don't exactly know which category or
- 25 subcategory will be excluded.

MR. HO: Well, as I take Solicitor 1 2 General Wall's representations here, it's that 3 the government will exclude to the maximum extent that's feasible and that's permitted 4 under law, and the government's view is that the 5 entire category of undocumented immigrants may 6 7 be excluded under law. Even if we take the government's three 8 9 proposed subcategories of undocumented 10 immigrants who are supposedly per se excludable, 11 those categories are quite heterogeneous. 12 They're overbroad. I don't think that they are 13 all categorically non-inhabitant. 14 JUSTICE THOMAS: Thank you. 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice 16 Breyer. 17 JUSTICE BREYER: Thank you. What do 18 you think about excluding -- the lawfulness of 19 excluding just the 50,000 or so who are in ICE centers or under final order to remove? 20 21 MR. HO: Well, Justice Breyer, the 2.2 population of people in ICE detention, as I 23 noted, is quite heterogeneous. Even under the 24 government's definition of inhabitant, many of 25 those people would qualify. You can be a lawful

- 1 permanent resident and be in ICE detention.
- 2 Even a person who is, say, detained at the
- 3 border, that person can apply for asylum. In
- 4 some years more than half of asylum claims --
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: But suppose you --
- 6 you would change it slightly and say we are
- 7 going to exclude, not count, people who are
- 8 under a legal order to remove.
- 9 MR. HO: Well, people under final
- 10 orders of removal can actually reside in the
- 11 country for quite a long time. They can
- 12 petition for review to courts of appeal. They
- 13 can seek other forms of relief. They can
- 14 challenge their orders collaterally. Some are
- 15 never actually deported, even after going
- through all of the -- those processes, because
- 17 their home country --
- 18 JUSTICE BREYER: All right. So what
- 19 line would you draw between those whom they
- 20 could legally deport -- not count and those whom
- 21 they can't?
- MR. HO: Well, the constitutional
- 23 standard, as this Court explained in Franklin,
- is usual residence. And the plain meaning of
- 25 that term turns on whether or not someone

- 1 commonly resides in the United States. It
- 2 doesn't turn on their lawful immigration status.
- 3 Those -- that term, "usual residence,"
- 4 was defined at the founding as where a person
- 5 commonly lives or sleeps. That's in both the
- 6 Johnson and the Bailey dictionaries that we
- 7 cite. And if you look at the dictionary that
- 8 the government relies, Webster's 1828, which
- 9 they rely on for the definition of inhabitant,
- 10 it defines residence as distinct from
- 11 nationality, offering the example of the
- 12 residence of an American in France or Italy for
- 13 a year.
- 14 So residence doesn't admit of
- exclusions on the basis of lawful immigration
- 16 status. It turns on whether a person's physical
- 17 presence is transient or not.
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Alito.
- JUSTICE ALITO: I'm going to try to
- see if I can get you to answer Justice Breyer's
- 21 question. Last term, we had a case involving an
- 22 alien, Mr. Thuraissigiam, who crossed the border
- 23 unlawfully and was almost immediately
- 24 apprehended and then placed in detention.
- Would he have to be counted?

1	MR. HO: Well, under the Bureau's
2	current residence rules, he would. But I I
3	just would note that the Court's holding in
4	Thuraissigiam, you know, was about whether
5	someone, you know, had entered for purposes of
6	
7	JUSTICE ALITO: No, I understand that.
8	So it is your position that every single person
9	who is in every single alien who is in the
10	United States on census day must be counted?
11	MR. HO: I would say that every persor
12	who is an alien in the United States under or
13	census day is subject to the same residence
14	requirements as anyone else who is a person
15	inside of a state.
16	If a United States citizen is usually
17	a resident abroad and is temporarily visiting
18	the country on April 1st on census day to see
19	family or something like that, that person is
20	not counted in the census. I think the same
21	JUSTICE ALITO: Well, you're saying
22	that for for each of these people, there has
23	to be a very specific, a very fact-specific
24	determination about whether they whether they
25	are a resident or not? Is that administrable at

- 1 all?
- 2 MR. HO: Well, the rules that were
- 3 administered by the federal Marshals in the
- 4 first census in 1790, Justice Alito, were to ask
- 5 whether or not a person usually resides at the
- 6 dwelling that's being visited. If not, where do
- 7 they actually usually reside? And if the person
- 8 has no stable residence, to count them simply
- 9 where they're found on April 1st.
- 10 That's been the practice since the
- 11 founding. But I would agree, I just want to
- 12 make clear, I would agree that there is
- 13 discretion to make decisions on the basis of
- 14 residence, but the plain language of the
- operative constitutional and statutory
- 16 provisions don't turn on lawful immigration
- 17 status. They turn on the facticity of a
- 18 person's residential circumstance.
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: Thank you.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 21 Sotomayor.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Ho, I'd like
- 23 to follow up on the effect of waiting in this
- 24 case. Is -- is the waiting problem that the --
- 25 the census apportionment doesn't happen until

- 1 April 1st; is that correct?
- 2 MR. HO: No, Justice Sotomayor. The
- 3 Commerce Secretary's report is due to the
- 4 President on December 31st. And then the
- 5 President must submit a report to Congress
- 6 within seven days of the beginning of Congress's
- 7 term. That's either on January 10th or 11th.
- 8 And then the clerk of the House must, within 15
- 9 days of that, send certificates to each of the
- 10 states notifying them how many seats in -- in
- 11 Congress each state can get.
- So we're talking about --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So the
- 14 apportionment already begins once the report is
- issued, and so we would have to unscramble the
- 16 egg --
- 17 MR. HO: I -- I think that's right.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- to have the --
- 19 now, can we go back to the -- the question that
- 20 seems to be at the nub of what many of my
- 21 colleagues are asking about, which is can and
- 22 should we rule that simply -- that not counting
- illegal aliens because they're undocumented,
- that that is a violation of the statute and the
- 25 Constitution? Is that enough relief to you?

1 MR. HO: I -- I think it is, Justice 2 Sotomayor, because the policy that we're 3 challenging is broad and -- and unequivocal. We're bringing a facial challenge to it. 4 And the policy lacks a plainly 5 6 legitimate sweep. The vast majority of 7 undocumented immigrants qualify as usual residents under any plausible interpretation of 8 that term, 66 percent --9 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Assume I even 11 agree with that, however, could -- would that 12 just mean -- what does that mean practically? Does the -- what does the Secretary do? He 13 14 doesn't send anything? How about if the 15 President comes back and says just send it to me 16 on these categories? What happens then? 17 MR. HO: Well, the injunction 18 prohibits merely the inclusion of information to 19 implement the existing presidential memorandum 20 in the Secretary's 141 report for apportionment. 21 It's not a gag order on the Commerce Secretary. 2.2 There's nothing that would prohibit the Commerce 23 Secretary from publishing various counts of 24 subcategories of undocumented immigrants on the 25 Internet.

1 That's not something that's prohibited 2 by the injunction. 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Kagan. JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Ho, I guess I 4 would like you to -- to comment on -- on General 5 Wall's view of the feasibility of the matching 6 7 process, you know, whether you have any insight 8 into that, into how the process works, and --9 and maybe as part of that, whether you have any insight into the question of why it is that the 10 11 government knows now that it can do that 12 matching with respect to the ICE detainees but isn't sure it can do that matching with respect 13 14 to categories of people for whom it has equally 15 good administrative records. 16 MR. HO: Well, Justice Kagan, I'm not 17 a social scientist, but here's what I know. 18 July of 2019, the President issued an executive 19 order on the collection of administrative 20 records as they relate to citizenship, with one of the goals being to ascertain the number of 21 2.2 undocumented immigrants in each state. 23 And the text of that memorandum states that the Census Bureau at that time, this was in 24 25 July of 2019, so about a year and a half ago,

- 1 the Census Bureau had determined, based on
- 2 experience, that administrative record to which
- 3 it already had access would enable it to
- 4 determine citizenship status for approximately
- 5 90 percent of the population.
- 6 So we know that the Bureau has a lot
- 7 of experience with matching. It can do it for
- 8 the vast majority of the population already.
- 9 That's with administrative records maintained by
- 10 the Social Security Administration and other
- 11 executive branch agencies.
- They've been collecting more records
- 13 for the last year and a half. And, as Your
- 14 Honor noted, the -- the government has
- information on millions of undocumented
- 16 immigrants. I think when you add all of that
- together, that's at least a substantial risk of
- 18 injury.
- 19 Because it doesn't take much to change
- 20 the apportionment. As Justice Breyer noted in
- 21 his opinion last year in the citizenship
- 22 question case, the difference of a few thousand
- 23 people in a state can mean the difference
- between gaining or losing a seat.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Thank you, Mr. Ho.

- 1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice 2 Gorsuch. 3 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Thank you, Chief. No questions. 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice 5 6 Kavanaugh. 7 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you, Chief Justice. 8 And good morning, Mr. Ho. First, I 9 10 want to make one point in response to something 11 General Underwood said, and I'm hope -- hoping 12 the Solicitor General can address this on reply, about the declaratory judgment after 13 14 apportionment, who that would be addressed to 15 and how that would work. That's something that 16 I would appreciate more from the Solicitor 17 General on but not going to be able to ask at 18 that point. As to -- as to you, I want to ask you 19 20 about your point that we should rule now because 21 the memo expresses the intent to exclude 2.2 non-citizens who are here unlawfully to the 23 maximum extent under law, is what you said, and
- 25 You also referenced -- I think this is

you quoted that a couple times.

- 1 important -- the memorandum says feasible. And
- 2 I think the argument has revealed, as did the
- 3 briefs, but the argument even more clearly, it's
- 4 going to be very difficult -- it's not going to
- 5 be particularly feasible to exclude all of the
- 6 non-citizens. We're going to be left with
- 7 categories.
- 8 How -- how do we think about
- 9 feasibility?
- MR. HO: Well, the government's
- 11 identified three cat- -- subcategories of
- 12 undocumented immigrants, which -- in the -- in
- the last few pages of their reply brief. So I
- 14 assume those are the ones that the government
- 15 thinks are the most feasible.
- 16 But each of those groups, I -- I
- 17 think, is overbroad. Those groups are
- 18 heterogeneous. And to exclude any of them would
- violate constitutional and statutory commands.
- There's people detained at the border, but, as I
- 21 mentioned, a lot of people who don't --
- JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: I'm sorry to
- 23 interrupt, but could we -- could we rule to that
- 24 effect now? We really haven't had briefing and
- 25 argument on the particular subcategories.

1 MR. HO: I -- I'd agree that, to the 2 extent the government wants to rely on saving 3 this policy with respect, you know, by citing one or two purportedly valid subcategories to 4 exclude, it would be better for this Court to 5 6 get full briefing on those categories. But 7 there's nothing that stops this Court from ruling on the facial validity of this policy 8 9 because it plainly lacks legitimate sweep. It 10 applies broadly --11 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: And then -- and 12 then, in litigation in January, we would deal 13 with the subcategories? Is that how you foresee 14 this? 15 MR. HO: If that's what the President 16 ultimately ends up doing and issues a new 17 memorandum, I think that would be something 18 that, you know, we'd have to deal with one way 19 or another because the injunction in this case 20 that was issued by the district court doesn't prohibit the exclusion of particular 21 subcategories under a different memo than the 2.2 23 blanket categorical one that's at issue in this 24 case. 25 JUSTICE KAVANAUGH: Thank you.

- 1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice
- 2 Barrett.
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Mr. Ho, you -- do
- 4 you agree that there would be nothing wrong or
- 5 there would be no legal prohibition against the
- 6 President issuing a new memo articulating new
- 7 bases for excluding subcategories?
- 8 MR. HO: Well, the injunction in this
- 9 case doesn't so preclude the President, Justice
- 10 Barrett. I -- I -- I don't know if I would
- 11 commit to there being nothing wrong or it being
- 12 unlawful -- not being unlawful.
- I -- I think that we would have to see
- 14 what the memo does, if it excludes people on the
- 15 basis of transient residence within the realm of
- 16 the President's discretion, as this Court held
- 17 in --
- 18 JUSTICE BARRETT: Let me -- let me
- 19 just clarify.
- MR. HO: Yes.
- 21 JUSTICE BARRETT: I didn't -- I didn't
- 22 mean that the lawfulness of whatever the new
- 23 memorandum said would be determined. I just
- 24 meant that there would be nothing unlawful about
- 25 his switching positions and articulating a new

- 1 rationale for why certain categories of illegal
- 2 aliens were excluded.
- 3 MR. HO: In that hypothetical, Justice
- 4 Barrett, it wouldn't just be a new rationale.
- 5 It would be an entirely new policy with a -- a
- 6 different scope in addition to different
- 7 reasoning. So I --
- 8 JUSTICE BARRETT: He could do that,
- 9 right?
- 10 MR. HO: The injunction in this case
- 11 doesn't prohibit that, that -- that's right.
- 12 Now whether or not that particular policy would
- 13 be lawful, I think, would depend upon the --
- 14 JUSTICE BARRETT: It would be -- it
- 15 would be a different question. As you told
- Justice Kavanaugh, that would be a bridge we
- 17 would have to cross later, right?
- 18 Like, if he said, listen, it's just
- 19 not feasible, we haven't been able to get the
- information, so this is why we're going to
- 21 exclude those in ICE detention facilities, say?
- MR. HO: Well, if the reason were
- 23 simply feasibility, but the basis for exclusion
- 24 were that they were undocumented and their lack
- of lawful status, then I think that would run

- 1 into the same kind of reasoning that this Court
- 2 pointed to in Shelby County. It didn't matter
- 3 --
- 4 JUSTICE BARRETT: Right, but that --
- 5 but that -- excuse me, Mr. Ho -- but, in that
- 6 instance, you're saying that the policy itself
- 7 would be unlawful, but you're not taking the
- 8 position that he is precluded at this point from
- 9 changing positions and issuing a new policy, the
- 10 lawfulness of which would be a separate
- 11 question?
- MR. HO: Yes, of course, that's right,
- 13 Justice Barrett --
- JUSTICE BARRETT: Okay.
- MR. HO: -- because the -- the -- the
- injunction below, you know, is specific to the
- 17 policy that's been issued and its categorical
- 18 nature.
- 19 JUSTICE BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Ho.
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: A minute to
- 21 wrap up, Mr. Ho.
- MR. HO: In closing, Your Honors, no
- 23 court, no Congress, and no executive branch
- 24 before now has ever thought that undocumented
- immigrants could be excluded from the whole

- 1 number of persons in each state.
- In 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment
- 3 based apportionment on person, not citizens,
- 4 specifically to embrace the entire immigrant
- 5 population and to secure -- to secure
- 6 ratification by states with large immigrant
- 7 populations.
- 8 And in 1929, Congress mandated
- 9 apportionment on total population, the plain
- 10 meaning of which does not permit exclusions for
- 11 immigration status. While the President may
- 12 have some discretion in borderline cases, he
- does not have authority to erase millions of
- 14 state residents from the apportionment based
- 15 solely on unlawful immigration status.
- 16 As the Latino justice amicus brief
- 17 notes, undocumented immigrants contribute \$1
- trillion in GDP, \$20 billion in federal taxes.
- 19 Eighty percent are essential workers. One in
- four are homeowners and pay property taxes.
- They're our neighbors, our coworkers,
- 22 and our family members. They are usual
- 23 residents under any plausible definition of that
- 24 term.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,

Т	counsel.
2	Rebuttal, General Wall?
3	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF JEFFREY B. WALL
4	ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLANTS
5	GENERAL WALL: Thank you, Mr. Chief
6	Justice.
7	So, as I think appellees' responses
8	confirm, there's no live or ripe case now. So
9	they seem to accept that the Court should just
10	hold for a couple of weeks. But, as you said,
11	Mr. Chief Justice, by the time we actually run
12	the matching and have more information, the
13	Secretary will be ready to send his report.
14	This is all going to happen on an
15	extremely compressed time line in January. And
16	I don't think prudential ripeness should be used
17	to await a ripe claim that could run out the
18	clock on the President's opportunity to send a
19	statement to Congress.
20	On the merits, if the President can
21	consider immigration status for any subset, then
22	the Court needs to reverse the injunction below
23	and take just three categories: those in ICE
24	facilities, those who have committed crimes and
25	are subject to final orders of removal and

1 those who have overstayed visas. The President could decide that it's 2 3 consistent with his discretion, as the memo says, to exclude those categories from the 4 apportionment base. And the question then is: 5 6 Do they have an enduring tie under Franklin? 7 They don't. They don't have a tie. We know that from Kaplan. And even if they do, 8 9 it's not enduring because they can be removed. 10 The other side's test, which they 11 haven't spent a lot of time defending today, is 12 where you live or sleep most of the time. But that doesn't fit long-term embassy personnel, 13 14 federal personnel overseas, even college and 15 boarding school students or members of Congress. 16 The test isn't just where you lay your 17 head at night. It is, as Franklin says, where you have allegiance or an enduring tie. 18 19 And there's no coherent theory of 20 political representation that says every illegal alien, no matter how little time they've been 21 2.2 here or no matter that they are imminently 23 facing removal, is a usual or settled resident. 24 It's the sovereign's prerogative to 25 define the political community, as Thuraissigiam

- 1 says, and the other side is left to say, look,
- 2 this is just what the founders wanted. But they
- 3 don't have an explanation for why the founders
- 4 would have wanted it, and that should give us
- 5 pause because, whatever the founders were, they
- 6 were not aimless people given to purposeless
- 7 structures.
- 8 The Court should vacate or reverse the
- 9 judgment and the other judgments in the other
- 10 cases and allow the Secretary to send his
- 11 report.
- 12 Finally, to you, Justice Kavanaugh,
- that would open up the possibility of
- 14 post-apportionment litigation in the event that
- there is an effect on apportionment or funding.
- 16 And if appellees prevail in that litigation on
- 17 the basis of whatever categories are excluded
- and they then bring as-applied challenges, they
- 19 would be asking for the same relief as in
- 20 Franklin. They'd be asking for a declaratory
- 21 judgment against the Secretary of Commerce to
- 22 reform his Section 141 report. It would not be
- 23 a declaratory judgment against the President.
- 24 Franklin doesn't allow that. But Utah tells us
- 25 that we assume that the President will comply

Т	with that judgment. There's no reason to form a
2	a a different assumption here, the the
3	President would comply with a post-apportionment
4	judgment.
5	In the event that litigation ever
6	happens again, we think there is a real
7	prospect that it will not but, if it does,
8	there is time enough for that to happen when you
9	have concrete injuries and you have a definitive
10	decision from the President on which groups will
11	be excluded from the apportionment base.
12	We ask that the Court vacate or
13	reverse the judgment here and the judgments in
14	the parallel cases.
15	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
16	General. The case is submitted.
17	(Whereupon, at 11:33 a.m., the case
18	was submitted.)
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