

Parole Policy

In January 2010, DHS revised ICE policy for granting parole to asylum seekers determined by DHS to have a credible fear of persecution. Prior policy required asylum seekers to initiate a request for parole in writing. As a result, asylum seekers who might have qualified for parole remained in detention during often lengthy litigation, at great expense to the federal government. The new policy mandates that all arriving aliens who are found by DHS to have a credible fear of persecution automatically be considered for parole. Such asylum seekers can be eligible for parole if they establish their identities, pose neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community, and have no additional factors weighing against their release.

CONCLUSION

In closing, I would like to thank ICE employees, the Congress, and our stakeholders who continue to provide significant collaboration and support in this important mission - reforming the immigration detention system.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today and for your continued support of ICE and its law enforcement mission.

I would be pleased to answer any questions at this time.