

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

FILED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

JAN 28 2026

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK  
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff - Appellee,

v.

MARTIN CHAVEZ-ZARATE, AKA  
Martin Zarate-Chavez,

Defendant - Appellant.

No. 25-5742

D.C. No.

1:98-cr-05149-JLT-1

MEMORANDUM\*

Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Eastern District of California  
Jennifer L. Thurston, District Judge, Presiding

Submitted January 22, 2026\*\*

Before: WARDLAW, CLIFTON, and R. NELSON, Circuit Judges.

Martin Chavez-Zarate appeals from the district court's order denying his second motion for compassionate release under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A). We have jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1291, and we affirm.

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\* This disposition is not appropriate for publication and is not precedent except as provided by Ninth Circuit Rule 36-3.

\*\* The panel unanimously concludes this case is suitable for decision without oral argument. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 34(a)(2).

Chavez-Zarate contends that the district court procedurally erred by failing to address his argument that he is subject to a sentencing disparity under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(6) because he is not a citizen and therefore is ineligible for programs that could reduce his sentence. The record reflects, however, that Chavez-Zarate did not make this argument in the district court; instead, he argued that his non-citizen status was an extraordinary and compelling reason for compassionate release. *See United States v. Keller*, 2 F.4th 1278, 1283-84 (9th Cir. 2021) (describing two-step analysis applicable to compassionate release motions). The court acknowledged that argument, as well as Chavez-Zarate's other asserted extraordinary and compelling circumstances, but denied the motion on the independent ground that the § 3553(a) factors did not support relief.

On this record, the district court did not err in failing to address whether Chavez-Zarate's non-citizen status resulted in an unwarranted sentencing disparity. *See United States v. Wright*, 46 F.4th 938, 950-52 (9th Cir. 2022). Moreover, the court adequately explained why the § 3553(a) factors did not support relief, *see id.* at 948-50, and did not abuse its discretion in reaching this conclusion, *see Keller*, 2 F.4th at 1284.

**AFFIRMED.**