

## HR 581

Free Flow of Information Act of 2005

**Congress:** 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Law

**Introduced:** Feb 2, 2005

**Current Status:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H877-878)

**Latest Action:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H877-878) (Mar 14, 2006)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/581>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Pence, Mike [R-IN-6]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** IN • **Chamber:** House

**Cosponsors** (54 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Boucher, Rick [D-VA-9]	D · VA		Feb 2, 2005
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Jackson-Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Spratt, John M., Jr. [D-SC-5]	D · SC		Feb 8, 2005
Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Feb 10, 2005
Rep. Blunt, Roy [R-MO-7]	R · MO		Feb 16, 2005
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Feb 16, 2005
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-28]	D · NY		Feb 16, 2005
Rep. Emanuel, Rahm [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Mar 2, 2005
Rep. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ-6]	R · AZ		Mar 2, 2005
Rep. Ryan, Paul [R-WI-1]	R · WI		Mar 9, 2005
Resident Commissioner Fortuno, Luis G. [R-PR-At Large]	R · PR		Mar 9, 2005
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Mar 15, 2005
Rep. Wolf, Frank R. [R-VA-10]	R · VA		Mar 15, 2005
Rep. Lewis, Ron [R-KY-2]	R · KY		Apr 6, 2005
Rep. Meehan, Martin T. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Apr 6, 2005
Rep. Upton, Fred [R-MI-6]	R · MI		Apr 6, 2005
Rep. Udall, Tom [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Apr 19, 2005
Rep. Wilson, Heather [R-NM-1]	R · NM		Apr 19, 2005
Rep. LaHood, Ray [R-IL-18]	R · IL		Apr 21, 2005
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Apr 28, 2005
Rep. Brady, Kevin [R-TX-8]	R · TX		Apr 28, 2005
Rep. Jenkins, William L. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		May 5, 2005
Rep. Davis, Tom [R-VA-11]	R · VA		May 10, 2005
Rep. Owens, Major R. [D-NY-11]	D · NY		May 10, 2005
Rep. Herseeth, Stephanie [D-SD-At Large]	D · SD		May 16, 2005
Rep. Neal, Richard E. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		May 16, 2005
Rep. Shaw, E. Clay, Jr. [R-FL-22]	R · FL		May 16, 2005
Rep. Granger, Kay [R-TX-12]	R · TX		May 26, 2005
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		May 26, 2005
Rep. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT-At Large]	I · VT		May 26, 2005
Rep. Beauprez, Bob [R-CO-7]	R · CO		Jun 8, 2005
Rep. Etheridge, Bob [D-NC-2]	D · NC		Jun 8, 2005
Rep. Hinchey, Maurice D. [D-NY-22]	D · NY		Jun 8, 2005
Rep. Millender-McDonald, Juanita [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jun 8, 2005
Rep. Pastor, Ed [D-AZ-4]	D · AZ		Jun 8, 2005
Rep. Boehlert, Sherwood [R-NY-24]	R · NY		Jun 22, 2005
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]	R · OK		Jun 22, 2005
Rep. Davis, Lincoln [D-TN-4]	D · TN		Jun 24, 2005
Rep. Carson, Julia [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Jun 29, 2005
Rep. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Jul 11, 2005

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lantos, Tom [D-CA-12]	D · CA		Jul 11, 2005
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Jul 11, 2005
Rep. Shays, Christopher [R-CT-4]	R · CT		Jul 11, 2005
Rep. Tiberi, Patrick J. [R-OH-12]	R · OH		Jul 11, 2005
Rep. Walden, Greg [R-OR-2]	R · OR		Jul 11, 2005
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jul 11, 2005
Rep. Berkley, Shelley [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Jul 14, 2005
Rep. Boren, Dan [D-OK-2]	D · OK		Jul 14, 2005
Rep. Davis, Jim [D-FL-11]	D · FL		Jul 14, 2005
Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Jul 14, 2005
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Jul 18, 2005
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Jul 25, 2005
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-1]	D · CA		Jul 25, 2005

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 2, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 HR 3323	Related bill	<b>Mar 14, 2006:</b> Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H877-878)
109 S 1419	Related bill	<b>Nov 17, 2005:</b> Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S13148)
109 S 340	Identical bill	<b>Feb 9, 2005:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Free Flow of Information Act of 2005 - Prohibits Federal entities from compelling covered persons (specified media outlets or their employees) to testify or produce any document unless a court determines by clear and convincing evidence that: (1) the entity has unsuccessfully attempted to obtain such testimony or document from all non-covered persons; and (2) in a criminal matter, based on information from a non-covered person, there are reasonable grounds to believe a crime has occurred and the testimony or document is essential to the investigation, prosecution, or defense; or (3) in a non-criminal matter, based on information from a non-covered person, the testimony or document is essential to a dispositive issue of substantial importance.

Requires the content of compelled testimony or documents to be: (1) limited to the purpose of verifying published information; and (2) narrowly tailored in subject matter and time period covered.

Excludes certain commercial or financial information from coverage under this Act.

Prohibits compelled disclosure, notwithstanding this Act's conditions for such disclosure, of: (1) the identity of a confidential source; or (2) information reasonably expected to lead to the discovery of such identity.

Makes this Act applicable to testimony or documents sought from third parties that are related to business transactions with covered persons. Authorizes compelled disclosure in such cases only where the covered person has received notice and an opportunity to be heard.

States that publication or dissemination of testimony or documents does not waive the requirements for compelled disclosure set forth in this Act.

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### **Actions Timeline**

- **Mar 14, 2006:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H877-878)
- **Feb 15, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H592-593)
- **Feb 2, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 2, 2005:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 2, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H290-291)
- **Feb 2, 2005:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.