

## HR 2063

National Center for the Right to Counsel Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Crime and Law Enforcement

**Introduced:** Apr 28, 2015

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. (Jun 1, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2063>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-21]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (25 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Apr 28, 2015
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Apr 28, 2015
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Apr 28, 2015
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Apr 28, 2015
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Apr 28, 2015
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Apr 28, 2015
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jun 4, 2015
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Jun 8, 2015
Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Jun 15, 2015
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Jun 18, 2015
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jun 18, 2015
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Jun 19, 2015
Del. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Jul 16, 2015
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Jul 20, 2015
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Jul 20, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Jul 21, 2015
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Jul 22, 2015
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Jul 23, 2015
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jul 27, 2015
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Sep 15, 2015
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Dec 1, 2015
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Sep 20, 2016

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 1, 2015
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 1, 2015
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 28, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## National Center for the Right to Counsel Act

Establishes in the District of Columbia a private, nonprofit corporation to be known as the National Center for the Right to Counsel to provide: (1) financial support to supplement, but not supplant, funding for public defense systems that provide legal assistance to indigent defendants in criminal cases, including systems run by state or local governments as well as private entities or individuals providing services under contract with such governments; and (2) financial and substantive support for training programs to improve delivery of legal services to indigent defendants.

Requires each state to have a state advisory council to: (1) monitor, receive, and investigate complaints regarding the compliance of public defense systems that receive funding with applicable laws and regulations; (2) notify the Center of any apparent violations; and (3) collect data on the delivery of public defense services and facilitate information sharing between the state's public defense systems.

Authorizes the Center to: (1) make grants and contracts; (2) undertake research, training, and technical assistance; and (3) serve as a clearinghouse for information.

Prohibits the Center from interfering with attorneys' professional responsibilities to their clients or from abrogating the authority of states or other jurisdictions to enforce such standards.

Requires the Center, to the extent feasible, to have services provided in an indigent defendant's principal language in areas where significant numbers of indigent defendants speak a language other than English.

Directs the Center to make available to the public an online database that includes the contact information for all public defense systems in every state.

Requires the Center to establish regional backup service centers to assist public defense systems with access to investigators, sentencing mitigation specialists, and information about available grants.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jun 1, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Jun 1, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Apr 28, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 28, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.