

S 262

Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Social Welfare

Introduced: Jan 27, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S544-545) (Jan 27, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/262>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (33 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH] | R · NH | | Jan 27, 2015 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Jan 27, 2015 |
| Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME] | R · ME | | Jan 27, 2015 |
| Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN] | D · MN | | Feb 12, 2015 |
| Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH] | D · OH | | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE] | D · DE | | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL] | D · IL | | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN] | D · MN | | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] | D · WA | | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM] | D · NM | | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA] | D · MA | | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI] | D · RI | | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD] | D · MD | | Feb 24, 2015 |
| Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] | D · NH | | Feb 24, 2015 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | Feb 25, 2015 |
| Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI] | D · WI | | Feb 26, 2015 |
| Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND] | D · ND | | Feb 26, 2015 |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI] | D · HI | | Feb 26, 2015 |
| Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT] | D · CT | | Feb 26, 2015 |
| Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA] | D · CA | | Mar 2, 2015 |
| Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI] | D · MI | | Mar 2, 2015 |
| Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA] | D · WA | | Mar 3, 2015 |
| Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA] | D · CA | | Mar 3, 2015 |
| Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME] | I · ME | | Mar 3, 2015 |
| Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI] | D · MI | | Mar 4, 2015 |
| Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI] | D · HI | | Mar 4, 2015 |
| Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO] | D · CO | | Mar 10, 2015 |
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] | D · OR | | Mar 10, 2015 |
| Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI] | D · RI | | Mar 10, 2015 |
| Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR] | D · OR | | Mar 10, 2015 |
| Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA] | D · MA | | Mar 15, 2016 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Judiciary Committee | Senate | Referred To | Jan 27, 2015 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Social Welfare

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 114 HR 1779 | Related bill | Nov 16, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education. |

Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act

Reauthorizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act through FY2020, generally at FY2009 levels.

Modifies the Basic Center Grant (BCG) Program (for short-term emergency shelter and family reunification services to runaway and homeless youth) to require local centers to provide safe shelter and services, including trauma-informed services, for runaway and homeless youth, and (if appropriate) services for their families, including individuals they identify as family.

Extends the maximum stay in a BCG shelter from 21 to 30 days, and requires a shelter to provide suicide prevention services.

Allows shelter services to include: (1) trauma-informed and gender-responsive services for runaway or homeless youth, including victims of trafficking in persons or sexual exploitation; and (2) an assessment of family engagement in support and reunification (if appropriate), interventions, and services for parents or legal guardians of such youth, or individuals they identify as family.

Revises plan applicant record keeping requirements.

Requires plan applicants to: (1) provide age, gender, and culturally and linguistically appropriate services to runaway youth; and (2) assist youth in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Revises the Transitional Living Grant (TLG) Program (for longer-term residential services, life skills, education, and employment support to older homeless youth) to require information and counseling services in basic life skills to be age, gender, and linguistically appropriate.

Requires TLG plan applicants to provide suicide prevention services, counseling to homeless youth, and aftercare services.

Requires a TLG plan to ensure proper referral of homeless youth to mental health services, including programs providing comprehensive services to victims of trafficking in persons or sexual exploitation.

Requires plan applicants to provide age, gender, and culturally and linguistically appropriate services that address the needs of homeless and street youth.

Revises plan applicant record keeping requirements.

Revises requirements for the coordination of activities among federal agencies, grants for technical assistance and training, and grants for research, evaluation, demonstration, and service projects.

Revises the sexual abuse prevention program to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to make grants to public agencies (as well as nonprofit private agencies, as under current law) to provide street-based services to runaway and homeless, and street youth who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, violence, trafficking in persons, or sexual exploitation.

Prohibits any person in the United States, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, from being excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or

subject to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part under such Act, or funded with amounts appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, or other assistance administered by the HHS Administration for Children and Families.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 27, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 27, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S544-545)