

HR 5272

Do No Harm Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: May 18, 2016

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. (May 23, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5272>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]

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

Cosponsors (36 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		May 18, 2016
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		May 25, 2016
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		May 25, 2016
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		May 31, 2016
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		May 31, 2016
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		May 31, 2016
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		May 31, 2016
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Jun 8, 2016
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jun 8, 2016
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Jun 20, 2016
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Jun 20, 2016
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Jun 28, 2016
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Jun 28, 2016
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Jun 28, 2016
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Jun 28, 2016
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Jun 28, 2016
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jun 28, 2016
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jul 6, 2016
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Jul 6, 2016
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jul 6, 2016
Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]	D · CA		Jul 13, 2016
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Sep 28, 2016
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Sep 28, 2016
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Nov 14, 2016
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Nov 17, 2016
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Dec 7, 2016
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Dec 7, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 23, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of May 18, 2016)

Do No Harm Act

This bill makes the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) inapplicable to federal laws (or implementations of laws) that:

- protect against discrimination or the promotion of equal opportunity, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, Executive Order 11246 (concerning equal employment opportunity), the Violence Against Women Act, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) rules entitled "Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity";
- require employers to provide wages, other compensation, or benefits, including leave;
- protect collective activity in the workplace;
- protect against child labor, abuse, or exploitation; or
- provide for access to, information about, referrals for, provision of, or coverage for, any health care item or service.

Under current law, RFRA prohibits the government from substantially burdening a person's exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, except in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest when using the least restrictive means.

The bill makes RFRA inapplicable to: (1) terms requiring goods, services, functions, or activities to be performed or provided to beneficiaries of government contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or awards; or (2) denials of a person's full and equal enjoyment of a government-provided good, service, benefit, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation.

To assert a RFRA claim or defense in a judicial proceeding, the government must be a party to the proceeding.

Actions Timeline

- **May 23, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **May 18, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **May 18, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

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