

S 2918

Do No Harm Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: May 22, 2018

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (May 22, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2918>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]

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

Cosponsors (31 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 22, 2018
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		May 22, 2018
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 22, 2018
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 22, 2018
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		May 22, 2018
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		May 22, 2018
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 22, 2018
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 22, 2018
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		May 22, 2018
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 22, 2018
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		May 22, 2018
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		May 22, 2018
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Sep 12, 2018
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Sep 12, 2018
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Sep 12, 2018
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Sep 12, 2018
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Sep 12, 2018
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Sep 17, 2018
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Sep 17, 2018
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Sep 17, 2018
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Sep 17, 2018
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Sep 17, 2018
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Sep 17, 2018
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Sep 18, 2018
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Sep 27, 2018
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Sep 28, 2018
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Sep 28, 2018
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Oct 10, 2018
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Nov 28, 2018
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Nov 29, 2018
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Dec 19, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 22, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 3222	Related bill	Aug 3, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Summary (as of May 22, 2018)

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 22, 2018:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 22, 2018:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.