

## HR 495

### Protection of Children Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Jan 12, 2017

**Current Status:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 15 - 12.

**Latest Action:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 15 - 12. (Jun 21, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/495>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Carter, John R. [R-TX-31]

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

### Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-5]	R · WI		Jun 20, 2017
Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Jun 20, 2017
Rep. Banks, Jim [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Oct 12, 2017
Rep. Gaetz, Matt [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Oct 25, 2017
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Oct 25, 2017
Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Dec 13, 2017

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 16, 2017
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 6, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 7068	Related bill	Nov 15, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
115 HR 6204	Related bill	Aug 2, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
115 HR 6134	Related bill	Jul 30, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
115 HR 4760	Related bill	Jun 21, 2018: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

## Protection of Children Act of 2017

This bill amends the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to eliminate the special repatriation requirements for unaccompanied alien children (UAC) who are nationals or residents of a country contiguous to the United States. (The same removal requirements are applied to all UACs who are not victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons and who do not have a fear of returning to their country of nationality or last habitual residence.)

An immigration officer who finds an inadmissible UAC at a land border or port of entry shall return the child to his or her country of nationality or of last habitual residence. (Currently such authority is discretionary.)

The Department of State is authorized to negotiate agreements between the United States and other countries for the repatriation of children. (Under current law, State is required to negotiate agreements between the United States and countries contiguous to the United States for the repatriation of children.)

An unaccompanied child who is not a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons and who does not have a fear of returning to his or her country of nationality or last habitual residence but who is:

- in removal proceedings, shall have a hearing before an immigration judge within 14 days;
- in federal custody, shall be transferred to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) custody within 30 days; and
- in HHS or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) custody, shall have access to legal counsel at no cost to the government.

HHS, before placing a child with an individual, shall provide DHS with the individual's name, Social Security number, date of birth, residence location, and immigration status, if known.

DHS shall investigate the immigration status of the individual with whom the child is placed and initiate removal proceedings if that individual is unlawfully present in the United States.

Such requirements are applied to any unauthorized child apprehended on or after June 15, 2012.

The Immigration and Nationality Act is amended with respect to: (1) special immigrant juvenile status, and (2) jurisdiction of asylum applications.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jun 21, 2017:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 21, 2017:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 15 - 12.
- **Feb 16, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.
- **Feb 6, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
- **Jan 12, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 12, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.