

HR 1012

REUNITE Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Feb 6, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Mar 22, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1012>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]

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

Cosponsors (32 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Feb 6, 2019
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Feb 6, 2019
Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Feb 6, 2019
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Feb 6, 2019
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Feb 6, 2019
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Feb 13, 2019
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Feb 14, 2019
Rep. Malinowski, Tom [D-NJ-7]	D · NJ		Feb 14, 2019
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Feb 14, 2019
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Feb 14, 2019
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Feb 22, 2019
Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Feb 22, 2019
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Feb 22, 2019
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Feb 25, 2019
Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]	D · CA		Feb 25, 2019
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Feb 25, 2019
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Feb 25, 2019
Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Feb 25, 2019
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Feb 28, 2019
Rep. Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5]	D · OR		May 7, 2019
Rep. Mucarsel-Powell, Debbie [D-FL-26]	D · FL		May 9, 2019
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		May 23, 2019
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Jun 26, 2019
Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Jun 26, 2019
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Jun 26, 2019
Rep. Haaland, Debra A. [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Jun 26, 2019
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Jun 26, 2019
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Jun 26, 2019
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Jun 26, 2019
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Jun 26, 2019
Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]	D · CA		Jul 17, 2019
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Jan 17, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 22, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 557	Related bill	Feb 26, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Summary (as of Feb 6, 2019)

Reunite Every Unaccompanied Newborn Infant, Toddler and other children Expeditiously Act or the REUNITE Act

This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to reunite children and their parents or legal guardians who were apprehended for illegal entry into the United States.

DHS and HHS shall develop procedures and programs, including procedures to (1) identify separated family members, (2) allow apprehended parents or legal guardians to have frequent no-cost contact with their separated children, and (3) coordinate with foreign consulates to locate apprehended individuals.

DHS and HHS shall ensure immediate reunification of apprehended children with a parent or legal guardian, but may make exceptions for the child's safety.

DHS and HHS may use DNA testing to determine family relationships, but shall first use other methods, such as official documents. DHS and HHS shall develop procedures for instances where the aliens refuse to consent to DNA testing. Collected DNA information may not be used for any purpose other than family reunification, including criminal or immigration enforcement.

The bill restores the Family Case Management Program, an alternative to detention program that uses case managers to promote compliance with immigration law obligations. DHS, HHS, and the Department of Justice (DOJ) shall establish the Office for Locating and Reuniting Children with Parents.

Aliens shall have access to counsel inside immigration detention facilities, and DOJ may provide counsel for immigration proceedings. DOJ shall provide counsel if necessary for children and vulnerable individuals, and children's cases shall be heard individually.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 22, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Feb 6, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 6, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.