

## HR 1989

### Break the Chain Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Immigration

**Introduced:** Mar 28, 2019

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

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (May 3, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1989>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]

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

### Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Reschenthaler, Guy [R-PA-14]	R · PA		Mar 28, 2019
Rep. Wright, Ron [R-TX-6]	R · TX		May 20, 2019

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 3, 2019

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Immigration

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2278	Related bill	May 15, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

## **Break the Chain Act**

This bill makes various changes related to family-sponsored immigration, such as narrowing the definition of what constitutes an *immediate relative* and lowering the annual numerical cap on certain classes of family-sponsored visas.

The alien parents of U.S. citizens shall not qualify for visas for *immediate relatives*, which are not subject to any direct numerical limits. Currently, the spouses, unmarried children under 21, and parents of citizens are considered immediate relatives.

The bill also reduces the baseline annual cap for family-sponsored visas from 480,000 to 87,934, and revises the methods for calculating the cap. Currently, the 480,000 cap may be adjusted depending on various factors but shall not be less than 226,000. A spouse or child of a sponsoring alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence shall be subject to the family-sponsored visa cap.

The bill revises the rules for determining whether an alien is a child for the purposes of family-sponsored immigration, and establishes that an alien who is married or turns 25 years old prior to a visa becoming available for issuance shall not qualify as a child.

The bill creates a nonimmigrant classification for alien parents of adult U.S. citizens, which authorizes such alien parents for admission into the United States for an initial five-year period. Such alien parents shall not be authorized for employment or to receive any public benefits.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 3, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Mar 28, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 28, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.