

## S 2113

Stop Cruelty to Migrant Children Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Immigration

**Introduced:** Jul 15, 2019

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jul 15, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2113>

### Sponsor

---

**Name:** Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

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

**Cosponsors** (39 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 15, 2019
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 15, 2019

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 15, 2019

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Immigration

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 3918	Identical bill	Aug 6, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
116 S 1733	Related bill	Jun 5, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S3256; text: CR S2356-3258)
116 S 662	Related bill	Mar 5, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 S 292	Related bill	Jan 31, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S802-803)

## Summary (as of Jul 15, 2019)

### Stop Cruelty to Migrant Children Act

This bill establishes limitations on separating alien children from parents and on detaining families, and also addresses other immigration-related matters.

A child may be separated from a parent or legal guardian at or near a port of entry or U.S. border only if (1) a state court has made a relevant ruling, such as terminating the parent's rights; (2) a qualified child welfare agency official has ruled that separation is in the child's best interest; or (3) a specified official makes certain determinations, such as concluding that a child is a trafficking victim.

A child may not be separated from a parent or guardian solely to deter migration or promote compliance with immigration laws.

This bill establishes presumptions (1) in favor of family unity and keeping siblings together, and (2) against detention.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall (1) document all child separations, (2) develop training for officers handling separations, (3) publish guidance on how to locate a separated child, (4) periodically provide a parent or guardian information about a separated child, and (5) pay for counsel to represent unaccompanied alien children in removal proceedings.

The *Flores* settlement (an agreement imposing conditions on the treatment of detained alien minors) and a related court holding shall apply to the detention of families.

The bill also contains provisions relating to the detention of aliens, including (1) requiring medical assessments of detained children, (2) imposing health-related standards for detention facilities, and (3) requiring DHS to provide sufficient funds for alternatives to detention programs.

## **Actions Timeline**

---

- **Jul 15, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 15, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.