

S 292

Keep Families Together Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jan 31, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S802-803) (Jan 31, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/292>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]

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

Cosponsors (41 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI] | D · WI | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO] | D · CO | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH] | D · OH | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA] | D · WA | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD] | D · MD | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE] | D · DE | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE] | D · DE | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV] | D · NV | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL] | D · IL | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA] | D · CA | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH] | D · NH | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM] | D · NM | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI] | D · HI | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL] | D · AL | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA] | D · VA | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME] | I · ME | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN] | D · MN | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT] | D · VT | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA] | D · MA | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] | D · OR | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT] | D · CT | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] | D · WA | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI] | D · MI | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI] | D · RI | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV] | D · NV | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT] | I · VT | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI] | D · HI | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] | D · NH | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN] | D · MN | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI] | D · MI | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM] | D · NM | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD] | D · MD | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA] | D · VA | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA] | D · MA | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI] | D · RI | | Jan 31, 2019 |
| Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR] | D · OR | | Jan 31, 2019 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Judiciary Committee | Senate | Referred To | Jan 31, 2019 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 116 HR 9040 | Related bill | Dec 21, 2020: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. |
| 116 HR 3918 | Related bill | Aug 6, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. |
| 116 S 2113 | Related bill | Jul 15, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. |
| 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 HR 541 | Related bill | Feb 25, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. |

Summary (as of Jan 31, 2019)

Keep Families Together Act

This bill limits the separation of families at or near U.S. borders or ports of entry.

The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), Justice, and Health and Human Services shall not separate a child from a parent or legal guardian at a port of entry or within 100 miles of a U.S. border unless

- a state court terminates the parent or legal guardian's rights;
- a state child welfare agency or court determines it is in the child's best interests to be removed; or
- the child is determined to be a trafficking victim or at risk of becoming one, the accompanying adult is most likely not the parent or legal guardian, or the child is in danger of abuse or neglect.

An agency may not separate a child from a parent or legal guardian solely to deter migration into the United States or to promote compliance with immigration laws.

DHS shall develop (1) training related to the bill's family separation requirements, and (2) guidance for how parents and legal guardians may locate a separated child. DHS shall provide parents and legal guardians periodic status updates about a separated child.

The Government Accountability Office shall report to Congress on the criminal prosecution of asylum seekers.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 31, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 31, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S802-803)