

## S 3818

### World Press Freedom Protection and Reciprocity Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** May 21, 2020

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (May 21, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3818>

#### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]

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

#### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		May 21, 2020

#### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 21, 2020

#### Subjects & Policy Tags

##### Policy Area:

International Affairs

#### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 7001	Related bill	May 22, 2020: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.

## **World Press Freedom Protection and Reciprocity Act**

This bill establishes requirements related to the protection and support of journalists and media personnel abroad.

Specifically, the President must establish a plan to (1) negotiate access for U.S. news and media organizations and their employees globally, and (2) work to enhance reciprocity for news and media organizations operating in the United States. The President may impose visa-blocking sanctions on any foreign person who is responsible for the jailing, killing, or torture of journalists or media personnel or significant efforts to harass or restrict the activities, terminate the visas, or threaten the safety of journalists or media personnel.

Identification statements required to be placed on informational materials distributed in the United States by an agent of a foreign principal on behalf of such principal must be labeled, marked, or stamped conspicuously at the top of the first page of such materials.

The annual country reports on human rights and development assistance and human rights and security assistance must include an assessment of freedom of expression with respect to electronic information in foreign countries.

Lastly, the bill establishes the Global Press Freedom Defense Fund to provide assistance to foreign journalists and media personnel who are victims of restrictions on the internationally recognized right to freedom of expression, including assistance to pay for legal and other related expenses.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 21, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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