

S 3819

Protecting Human Rights During Pandemic 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/3819>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]

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

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		May 21, 2020
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		May 21, 2020
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		May 21, 2020
Sen. Loeffler, Kelly [R-GA]	R · GA		May 21, 2020
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 21, 2020
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		May 21, 2020
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		May 21, 2020
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		May 21, 2020
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 22, 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 6986	Related bill	Oct 1, 2020: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organization Discharged.

Protecting Human Rights During Pandemic Act

This bill establishes strategies and reporting requirements related to internationally recognized human rights and COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019).

Specifically, the bill requires the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development to submit (1) a strategy for carrying out programs to support democratic institutions, freedom of the press, civil society, and human rights defenders in countries where government measures in response to COVID-19 violated or undermined internationally recognized human rights; and (2) a five-year strategic plan outlining the steps to address persistent human rights issues in the aftermath of COVID-19.

The bill also conditions the provision of security assistance to a foreign government on consideration of whether the foreign government used emergency laws, policies, or administrative procedures in violation of internationally recognized human rights.

Further, the bill requires the State Department to author initial, monthly, and final reports describing, among other things (1) specified countries' adherence to certain human rights principles in responding to COVID-19, (2) the actions of the U.S. government to address foreign governments' violations of human rights in responding to COVID-19, (3) the impact of such violations on things such as access to health care and the efforts and ability to control the pandemic, and (4) the U.S government's global efforts to counter disinformation and disseminate accurate information about the pandemic.

The bill also requires the inclusion of certain information, such as the misuse and abuse of emergency powers, in the annual country reports on human rights practices.

Actions Timeline

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