

HR 3918

Stop Cruelty to Migrant Children Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jul 23, 2019

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Aug 6, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3918>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (33 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Haaland, Debra A. [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-2]	D · AZ		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]	D · MD		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Jul 23, 2019
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Jul 24, 2019
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Jul 24, 2019
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Jul 25, 2019
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Jul 30, 2019
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Aug 6, 2019
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Aug 30, 2019
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Aug 30, 2019
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Sep 6, 2019
Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. [D-IN-1]	D · IN		Sep 20, 2019
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Nov 13, 2019
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Jan 7, 2020
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Jan 7, 2020
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Jan 29, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 23, 2019
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 2, 2019
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 6, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 2113	Identical 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 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 23, 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

- **Aug 6, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Aug 2, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations.
- **Jul 23, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 23, 2019:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (E965-966)
- **Jul 23, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Financial Services, 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.