

HR 541

Keep Families Together Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jan 14, 2019

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Feb 25, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/541>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]

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

Cosponsors (202 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jan 14, 2019
Del. Plaskett, Stacey E. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Jan 14, 2019
Del. Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho [D-MP-At Large]	D · MP		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]	D · GA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Brown, Anthony G. [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-8]	D · PA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]	D · TX		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Cisneros, Gilbert Ray, Jr. [D-CA-39]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]	D · TN		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Cox, TJ [D-CA-21]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Crist, Charlie [D-FL-13]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Crow, Jason [D-CO-6]	D · CO		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]	D · PA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-18]	D · PA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3]	D · PA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11]	D · OH		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15]	D · TX		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Haaland, Debra A. [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Heck, Denny [D-WA-10]	D · WA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Hill, Katie [D-CA-25]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Horsford, Steven [D-NV-4]	D · NV		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]	D · MI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lamb, Conor [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]	D · CT		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Levin, Andy [D-MI-9]	D · MI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Luria, Elaine G. [D-VA-2]	D · VA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Malinowski, Tom [D-NJ-7]	D · NJ		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. McAdams, Ben [D-UT-4]	D · UT		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. McEachin, A. Donald [D-VA-4]	D · VA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Morelle, Joseph D. [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Murphy, Stephanie N. [D-FL-7]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]	D · NJ		Jan 14, 2019

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-20]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]	D · CO		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]	D · NC		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Rouda, Harley [D-CA-48]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]	D · MD		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]	D · MD		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5]	D · PA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Schneider, Bradley Scott [D-IL-10]	D · IL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5]	D · OR		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Schrier, Kim [D-WA-8]	D · WA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Scott, David [D-GA-13]	D · GA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]	D · AL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Shalala, Donna E. [D-FL-27]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Spanberger, Abigail Davis [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Stanton, Greg [D-AZ-9]	D · AZ		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]	D · TX		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Wexton, Jennifer [D-VA-10]	D · VA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Wild, Susan [D-PA-7]	D · PA		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Jan 14, 2019
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]	D · CA		Jan 15, 2019
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jan 16, 2019
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Feb 25, 2019
Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. [D-IN-1]	D · IN		Mar 25, 2019
Rep. Neal, Richard E. [D-MA-1]	D · MA		Apr 2, 2019
Rep. Mucarsel-Powell, Debbie [D-FL-26]	D · FL		Apr 25, 2019
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Jun 11, 2019
Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Jun 26, 2019
Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-2]	D · AZ		Jul 10, 2019
Rep. Trahan, Lori [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Jul 10, 2019
Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]	D · CA		Jul 30, 2019
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Aug 9, 2019
Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]	D · MO		Oct 29, 2019
Rep. Trone, David J. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Dec 17, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 4, 2019
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 25, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
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 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 Jan 14, 2019)

Keep Families Together Act

This bill limits the separation of families at or near U.S borders or ports of entry and imposes limits on the prosecution of asylum seekers.

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

- a state court terminates the 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 legal guardian, or the child is in danger of abuse or neglect.

Such separation shall end unless a licensed independent child welfare expert authorizes the separation within 48 hours.

DHS, DOJ, or HHS may not separate a child from a 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 legal guardians may locate a separated child. HHS shall provide legal guardians weekly status updates about a separated child.

An asylum seeker who has expressed a credible or reasonable fear of persecution may not be prosecuted for certain immigration law violations until the asylum application has been finally adjudicated.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 25, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Feb 4, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations.
- **Jan 14, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 14, 2019:** 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.