

S 557

REUNITE Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Feb 26, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Feb 26, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/557>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]

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

Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 26, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 26, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 1012	Related bill	Mar 22, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Summary (as of Feb 26, 2019)

Reunite Every Unaccompanied Newborn Infant, Toddler and other children Expeditiously Act or the REUNITE Act

This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to reunite children and their parents or legal guardians who were apprehended for illegal entry into the United States.

DHS and HHS shall develop procedures and programs, including procedures to (1) identify separated family members, (2) allow apprehended parents or legal guardians to have frequent no-cost contact with their separated children, and (3) coordinate with foreign consulates to locate apprehended individuals.

DHS and HHS shall ensure immediate reunification of apprehended children with a parent or legal guardian, but may make exceptions for the child's safety.

DHS and HHS may use DNA testing to determine family relationships, but shall first use other methods, such as official documents. DHS and HHS shall develop procedures for instances where the aliens refuse to consent to DNA testing. Collected DNA information may not be used for any purpose other than family reunification, including criminal or immigration enforcement.

The bill restores the Family Case Management Program, an alternative to detention program that uses case managers to promote compliance with immigration law obligations. DHS, HHS, and the Department of Justice shall establish the Office for Locating and Reuniting Children with Parents.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 26, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 26, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.