

S 593

Do No Harm Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Feb 28, 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 28, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/593>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (33 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 28, 2019
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Apr 9, 2019
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Apr 9, 2019
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Sep 18, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 10, 2020
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Aug 13, 2020
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Sep 9, 2020
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Sep 9, 2020
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Sep 16, 2020
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Sep 21, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 28, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 1450	Related bill	Apr 8, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Summary (as of Feb 28, 2019)

Do No Harm Act

This bill prohibits the application of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) to specified federal laws or the implementation of such laws. Currently, RFRA prohibits the government from substantially burdening a person's exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, except in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest when using the least restrictive means.

Under the bill, RFRA is inapplicable to laws or the implementation of laws that

- protect against discrimination or the promotion of equal opportunity (e.g., the Civil Rights Act of 1964);
- require employers to provide wages, other compensation, or benefits, including leave;
- protect collective activity in the workplace;
- protect against child labor, abuse, or exploitation; or
- provide for access to, information about, referrals for, provision of, or coverage for, any health care item or service.

The bill prevents RFRA from being used to deny (1) goods or services the government has contracted, granted, or made an agreement to provide to a beneficiary; or (2) a person's full and equal enjoyment of a government-provided good, service, benefit, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation.

In order for a person to assert a RFRA claim or defense in a judicial proceeding, the government must be a party to the proceeding.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 28, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 28, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.