

## S 861

International Human Rights Defense Act of 2019

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Mar 25, 2019

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Mar 25, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/861>

### Sponsor

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

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

**Cosponsors** (40 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 26, 2019
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Apr 3, 2019
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Apr 3, 2019
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		May 6, 2019
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Aug 11, 2020
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Sep 9, 2020
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Sep 9, 2020
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Sep 10, 2020
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Sep 15, 2020
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Sep 15, 2020
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Sep 15, 2020
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Sep 15, 2020
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Sep 15, 2020
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 15, 2020
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Sep 15, 2020
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Sep 23, 2020
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 23, 2020
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Sep 23, 2020
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Oct 5, 2020
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Oct 21, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 25, 2019

### Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 1857	Identical bill	<b>Mar 25, 2019:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### Summary (as of Mar 25, 2019)

#### International Human Rights Defense Act of 2019

This bill establishes in the Department of State a permanent Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex) Peoples who shall serve as the principal State Department advisor regarding human rights for LGBTI people and represent the United States in diplomatic matters relevant to the human rights of LGBTI people.

The special envoy shall periodically provide Congress with a U.S. global strategy to prevent and respond to criminalization, discrimination, and violence against LGBTI people. The State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development may provide assistance to prevent and respond to such activities against LGBTI people.

The bill also requires that annual country reports on human rights practices include information on criminalization, discrimination, and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

### Actions Timeline

- Mar 25, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- Mar 25, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.