

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

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 | Mar 25, 2019: 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.