

HR 8809

LOVE Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Nov 24, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. (Nov 24, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8809>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]

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

Cosponsors (19 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC | | Nov 24, 2020 |
| Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7] | D · IN | | Nov 24, 2020 |
| Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1] | D · RI | | Nov 24, 2020 |
| Rep. Haaland, Debra A. [D-NM-1] | D · NM | | Nov 24, 2020 |
| Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47] | D · CA | | Nov 24, 2020 |
| Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2] | D · MA | | Nov 24, 2020 |
| Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30] | D · CA | | Nov 24, 2020 |
| Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20] | D · FL | | Dec 2, 2020 |
| Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8] | D · MA | | Dec 2, 2020 |
| Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5] | D · PA | | Dec 2, 2020 |
| Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27] | D · CA | | Dec 7, 2020 |
| Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11] | D · CA | | Dec 10, 2020 |
| Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30] | D · TX | | Dec 10, 2020 |
| Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6] | D · NY | | Dec 10, 2020 |
| Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3] | D · AZ | | Dec 16, 2020 |
| Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26] | D · NY | | Dec 16, 2020 |
| Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2] | D · CA | | Dec 17, 2020 |
| Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12] | D · NJ | | Dec 17, 2020 |
| Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5] | D · MI | | Dec 18, 2020 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Foreign Affairs Committee | House | Referred To | Nov 24, 2020 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Nov 24, 2020)

Lavender Offense Victim Exoneration Act of 2020 or the LOVE Act of 2020

This bill offers a formal apology from Congress for encouraging policies at the Department of State such as the Lavender Scare, which resulted in the wrongful termination of at least 1,000 people for alleged homosexuality.

The State Department must (1) review all employee terminations that occurred as a consequence of the Lavender Scare to identify who was wrongfully terminated for their real or perceived sexual orientation, and (2) issue a public report on the findings.

The State Department shall establish an independent Reconciliation Board to contact any employee (or a family member of a deceased employee) improperly terminated during the Lavender Scare and offer to change the employee's record to reflect this finding. The board shall accept and review petitions from former employees who believe they were terminated due to sexual orientation.

The State Department shall establish a board of senior-level officials to address issues that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) Foreign Service employees and their families face. The board shall report comments on or recommendations for improving State Department policies to prevent sexual orientation discrimination.

The State Department shall report on (1) countries that do not issue spousal visas for Foreign Service employee spouses due to sexual orientation, and (2) recommendations on how to address this.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 24, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 24, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.