

S 1517

Freedom for Families Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Apr 29, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Apr 29, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1517>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 29, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 29, 2021
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 29, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 11, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 29, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2925	Related bill	Nov 9, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Freedom for Families Act

This bill prohibits using federal funds for facilities used to detain noncitizen families and addresses related issues.

Specifically, no funds made available may be used to operate or construct a family detention center, whether operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or a contractor. This prohibition shall also apply to funds made available before this bill's enactment.

Funds obligated to operate such centers must instead be used for implementing and developing nondetention programs that are community-based and consistent with international best practices.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may place an apprehended noncitizen family into such a nondetention program if DHS makes an individualized determination that doing so will facilitate the family's compliance with immigration laws. The programs must provide to participants a legal orientation and meaningful access to counsel.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 29, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 29, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.