

HR 2697

Fairness to Freedom Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Apr 18, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (Apr 18, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2697>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]

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

Cosponsors (38 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44] | D · CA | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29] | D · CA | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Casar, Greg [D-TX-35] | D · TX | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9] | D · NY | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13] | D · NY | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4] | D · IL | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-7] | D · AZ | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2] | D · CA | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Jacobs, Sara [D-CA-51] | D · CA | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7] | D · WA | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4] | D · GA | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-12] | D · CA | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2] | D · MA | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6] | D · NY | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-31] | D · CA | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Salinas, Andrea [D-OR-6] | D · OR | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9] | D · IL | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Tokuda, Jill N. [D-HI-2] | D · HI | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7] | D · NY | | Apr 18, 2023 |
| Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-28] | D · CA | | May 23, 2023 |
| Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5] | D · MN | | May 23, 2023 |
| Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2] | D · MD | | May 23, 2023 |
| Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5] | D · IL | | Jun 15, 2023 |
| Rep. Garcia, Robert [D-CA-42] | D · CA | | Aug 25, 2023 |
| Rep. Goldman, Daniel S. [D-NY-10] | D · NY | | Aug 25, 2023 |
| Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2] | D · WI | | Aug 25, 2023 |
| Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5] | D · PA | | Aug 25, 2023 |
| Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-12] | D · MI | | Sep 12, 2023 |
| Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-52] | D · CA | | Sep 12, 2023 |
| Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29] | D · TX | | Nov 2, 2023 |
| Rep. Ramirez, Delia C. [D-IL-3] | D · IL | | Nov 2, 2023 |
| Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38] | D · CA | | Nov 13, 2023 |
| Rep. Lee, Summer L. [D-PA-12] | D · PA | | May 24, 2024 |
| Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18] | D · TX | | Jun 4, 2024 |
| Rep. Balint, Becca [D-VT-At Large] | D · VT | | Jun 13, 2024 |
| Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1] | D · CO | | Jun 25, 2024 |
| Rep. Carson, André [D-IN-7] | D · IN | | Nov 13, 2024 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Judiciary Committee | House | Referred To | Apr 18, 2023 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|------------|--------------|---|
| 118 S 1187 | Related bill | Apr 18, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. |

Summary (as of Apr 18, 2023)

Fairness to Freedom Act of 2023

This bill establishes a right to legal representation in certain immigration proceedings (e.g., removal and immigration bond hearings) at the government's expense for individuals who cannot afford representation. The bill also establishes various entities to facilitate such legal representation.

Currently, individuals in these immigration proceedings may be represented by counsel but not at government expense.

The bill addresses various issues related to such legal representation, including (1) the scope of the representation, (2) criteria for determining whether the individual is financially unable to afford representation, and (3) requirements relating to allowing the individual to meet with their lawyer and receiving relevant documents. Immigration proceedings may not commence until counsel has been appointed.

The bill also establishes the Office of Immigration Representation to ensure that qualified individuals who cannot afford legal representation receive the representation as required by this bill. The office's duties shall include establishing (1) administrative regions throughout the United States, and (2) a local immigration representation board for each region.

The local boards must, subject to the office's approval, develop and implement plans for providing legal representation under this bill. To provide such legal representation, the local boards may (1) establish one or more immigrant public defender organizations, (2) contract with existing community defender organizations, and (3) establish a panel attorney system.

The bill establishes minimum funding requirements for the office.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 18, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 18, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.