HR 944

Access to Counsel Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Immigration
Introduced: Feb 4, 2025
Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (Feb 4, 2025)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/944

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]
Party: Democratic • **State:** WA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (73 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Ansari, Yassamin [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Barragán, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Casar, Greg [D-TX-35]	D · TX		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Casten, Sean [D-IL-6]	D · IL		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Sheila [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Crockett, Jasmine [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. García, Jesús G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Goldman, Daniel S. [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank" [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Lee, Summer L. [D-PA-12]	D · PA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Leger Fernandez, Teresa [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. McBride, Sarah [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. McIver, LaMonica [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Ramirez, Delia C. [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5]	D · PA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Stansbury, Melanie A. [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-14]	D · CA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Feb 4, 2025

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Tokuda, Jill N. [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Velázquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-25]	D · FL		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Williams, Nikema [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Feb 4, 2025
Rep. Carson, André [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Feb 5, 2025
Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Feb 5, 2025
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]	D · CA		Feb 5, 2025
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Feb 7, 2025
Rep. Dexter, Maxine [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Feb 10, 2025
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3]	D · PA		Feb 10, 2025
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Feb 10, 2025
Rep. Balint, Becca [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Feb 11, 2025
Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Feb 12, 2025
Rep. Kamlager-Dove, Sydney [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Feb 25, 2025
Rep. Simon, Lateefah [D-CA-12]	D · CA		Feb 25, 2025
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Mar 10, 2025
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Mar 18, 2025
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Mar 21, 2025
Rep. Bell, Wesley [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Mar 25, 2025
Rep. Cisneros, Gilbert Ray, Jr. [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Mar 25, 2025
Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Apr 7, 2025
Rep. Latimer, George [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Apr 30, 2025
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-10]	D · CA		May 14, 2025
Rep. Thanedar, Shri [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jul 2, 2025
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-37]	D · TX		Sep 11, 2025
Rep. Hoyle, Val T. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Sep 15, 2025
Rep. Fletcher, Lizzie [D-TX-7]	D · TX		Sep 26, 2025
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Sep 30, 2025
Rep. Tran, Derek [D-CA-45]	D · CA		Nov 17, 2025
Rep. Ross, Deborah K. [D-NC-2]	D · NC		Apr 21, 2026
Rep. Mejia, Analilia [D-NJ-11]	D · NJ		May 15, 2026

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 4, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 S 391	Related bill	**Feb 4, 2025:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S595-596)

Summary (as of Feb 4, 2025)

Access to Counsel Act

This bill provides various protections for covered individuals subject to secondary or deferred inspections when seeking admission into the United States. Covered individuals include U.S. nationals, lawful permanent residents, non-U.S. nationals (*aliens* under federal law) in possession of a visa, returning asylees, and refugees.

The Department of Homeland Security must ensure that a covered individual subject to secondary or deferred inspection has a meaningful opportunity to consult with counsel and certain related parties, such as a relative, within an hour of the start of the secondary inspection and as necessary during the inspection process. The counsel and related party must be allowed to advocate on behalf of the covered individual, including by providing evidence and information to the examining immigration officer.

A lawful permanent resident subject to secondary or deferred inspection may not abandon lawful permanent resident status until the individual has had a meaningful opportunity to seek advice from counsel, unless the individual voluntarily and knowingly waives in writing this opportunity to seek counsel's advice.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 4, 2025:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 4, 2025:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

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