

FAMILIES FOR FREEDOM

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The Child Citizen Protection Act (CCPA) HR 1176 **History and Timeline**

The CCPA Developed as a Grassroots Response to CIR:

The Child Citizen Protection Act came out of a specific moment in the 2006 debate for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) where it seemed likely that DC insiders were willing to concede the enforcement provisions in several parts of the CIR compromise bill that would increase Immigration and Customs Enforcement's ability to detain and deport our loved ones.

It was actually after one specific meeting Families for Freedom (FFF) members attended that the drive for a meaningful alternative to CIR took hold. The gist of the meeting was: 1) wait your turn (CIR is our moment), and 2) we, the people actually facing deportation, were expendable for the greater good of comprehensive immigration reform. We then decided that the only way we were going to get our issues addressed was to write our own bill.

The CCPA Was Introduced Through Community-Wide Collaborations:

1. FFF members discussed the idea of writing a bill based on asking immigration judges to take the best interest of US citizen children into account before summarily deporting their parents.
2. Nancy Morawetz, head of the NYU immigration clinic recommended amending the provisions under INA 240.
3. Subhash Kateel, FFF Co-Founder drafted the legislation and reviewed it with legal colleagues to ensure accuracy of its wording.
4. FFF got examples of legislation from Senator Clinton's office.
5. FFF then harnessed its personal and professional connections with Congressman Jose Serrano's NY office to press for them to introduce and push this bill forward. The Congressman's DC office then asked for a proposal.
6. FFF sent a proposal for the CCPA to Serrano's DC office.
7. At a community forum in the Bronx, Julio, an FFF youth member whose father had been deported gave the best testimony of the event that was attended by Congressman Serrano. At the end of his testimony, Julio handed Serrano a draft of the bill and asked him to support it.
8. Serrano's DC office sent a draft to its legislative counsel, who made some changes.
9. On March 3rd, 2006 the CCPA was introduced into the 109th Congress as HR 5035. It was reintroduced the following year in the 110th Congress as HR 1176 on 2/16/2007.
10. During an April 24, 2007 legislative visit action FFF garnered nearly a dozen co-sponsors by direct lobby visits.
11. Through concerted individual and collective efforts, FFF and its allies conducted lobby days to Washington, DC, held vigils and testified at hearings. These efforts solidified a base of support in New York state and began to incubate support bases in Chicago, Los Angeles, Newark, Texas and Mississippi.

The CCPA Is Essential Legislation Because:

- 1) It is easy to understand and requests something measured, not overreaching
- 2) Is just as important symbolically as pragmatically
- 3) It has a multi year shelf life
- 4) It addresses a major concern about the deportation process while citing family values and NOT referencing our families' crimes and immigration status