
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Jesse Arreguín, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

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Subject: *Jeffrey Epstein files*

HISTORY

Source: Author
Prior Legislation: None
Support: Unknown
Opposition: None known

PURPOSE

The purpose of this resolution is to denounce Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, and any individual involved with or aware of their criminal enterprise, to denounce President Trump's attempts to prevent the release of the Epstein files and deny justice for survivors, and to urge the Congress of the United States to continue to exercise its oversight authority and hold President Trump and other administration officials accountable for not releasing the balance of the Epstein files possessed by the federal government pursuant to existing law.

Existing federal law, the Epstein Files Transparency Act (hereinafter, "the Act"), requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to publish (in a searchable and downloadable format), within 30-days of the enactment of the Act, all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in DOJ's possession that relate to the following:

- The investigation and prosecution of Jeffrey Epstein.
- Ghislaine Maxwell.
- Flight logs or travel records, as specified.
- Individuals, including government officials, named or referenced in connection with Epstein's criminal activities, civil settlements, immunity or plea agreements, or investigatory proceedings.
- Entities (corporate, nonprofit, academic, or governmental) with known or alleged ties to Epstein's trafficking or financial networks.
- Any immunity deals, non-prosecution agreements, plea bargains, or sealed settlements involving Epstein or his associates.
- Internal DOJ communications, as specified.
- All communications, memoranda, directives, logs, or metadata concerning the destruction, deletion, alteration, misplacement, or concealment of documents, recordings,

or electronic data related to Epstein, his associates, his detention and death, or any investigative files.

- Documentation of Epstein's death, as specified. (Pub. L. 119-38)

Existing federal law provides that no record within the Epstein files specified above may be withheld, delayed, or redacted on the basis of embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including to any government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary. (*Ibid.*)

Existing federal law authorizes the Attorney General of the United States to withhold or redact the segregable portions of records that fall into specific sensitive categories, such as personally identifiable information, child sexual abuse materials, depictions of death, and materials that would jeopardize an active federal investigation or ongoing prosecution. (*Ibid.*)

Existing federal law requires the Attorney General, within 15 days of completion of the release required under the Act, to submit to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary a report listing all categories of documents released and withheld, a summary of redactions made, and a list of all government officials and politically exposed persons named or referenced in the released materials. (*Ibid.*)

This resolution finds that in 2019, Jeffrey Epstein was charged in federal court with sex trafficking of minors and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of minors. In 2007, Epstein received a plea deal negotiated by former United States Secretary of Labor, Alexander Acosta, getting 18 months of work release for child sex crimes that would normally result in decades in federal prison.

This resolution finds that Epstein and his associates abused over 1,000 young women and children, including Californians, dating back to the early 1990s, in a systemic failure of our justice system and elected government who have a duty and responsibility to protect children from dangerous predators and provide justice for survivors.

This resolution finds that H.R. 4405, 119th Congress (2025), known as the Epstein Files Transparency Act and authored by Representative Ro Khanna, passed with strong bipartisan support and became law on November 19, 2025, and required the United States Department of Justice to publish all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in their possession that relate to the investigation and prosecution of Jeffrey Epstein, while allowing for narrowly tailored redactions to protect the identities of survivors.

This resolution finds that President Donald J. Trump and his appointees, United States Attorney General Pam Bondi and Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Kash Patel, engaged in an active and overt campaign to prevent the release of these files, including direct attempts by the president to dissuade and pressure members of Congress from supporting H.R. 4405 and therefore deny survivors the transparency they deserve.

This resolution finds that the United States Department of Justice failed to meet the deadline required under H.R. 4405, and failed to redact and protect the identifiable information of over 100 survivors, putting their lives in danger and retraumatizing them.

This resolution finds that Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche confirmed that while there are 6,000,000 relevant documents in the Epstein case files, only 3,500,000 have been cleared for public access.

This resolution finds that of those partially released files, many are heavily redacted with censoring that does not comply with the requirements of H.R. 4405, which prohibits any redactions on the basis of embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including to any government officials, public figures, or foreign dignitaries.

This resolution finds that the United States Department of Justice has chosen to not comply with a United States House of Representatives' Oversight Committee subpoena for all files related to the Jeffrey Epstein investigation issued on August 5, 2025.

This resolution finds that Ghislaine Maxwell, who was convicted of sex trafficking of a minor and other crimes in conspiracy with Jeffrey Epstein, was moved to a minimum-security facility with dormitory-style housing seven days after being interviewed by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.

This resolution finds that many powerful individuals from all political affiliations were mentioned in the files, but no criminal charges have been brought against any individual listed in the files, and Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche has stated that new charges based on the evidence in the files was unlikely.

This resolution finds that survivors deserve justice, transparency, and expedient accountability against any official or individual that participated in the heinous and predatory actions of Jeffrey Epstein and his associates, and those who allowed this abuse to continue without repercussions.

This resolution resolves that the Legislature formally condemns sex trafficking and denounces Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, and any individual involved with or aware of their criminal enterprise and abuse.

This resolution resolves that the Legislature denounces President Donald J. Trump's attempts to prevent the release of the Epstein files, and his administration's attempts to deny justice for survivors through continued self-serving efforts to withhold and redact information with no transparency.

This resolution resolves that the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to continue to exercise its oversight authority and hold President Trump and Attorney General Bondi accountable for not complying with its subpoena or H.R. 4405, which requires the release of all the remaining Epstein files, including all records, documents, communications, and investigative materials that relate to the investigation and prosecution of Jeffrey Epstein.

This resolution resolves that the Legislature urges federal and local law enforcement to take immediate action to hold accountable all those who harmed survivors or who were complicit in Epstein's crimes, regardless of their elected title, royal title, party affiliation, or economic status, in order to provide justice and closure for survivors.

COMMENTS

1. Need for This Bill

According to the author:

From the early 1990s to 2019, Jeffrey Epstein ran a sex trafficking ring that abused over 1,000 women and children across the United States. During this time, the systems and people in power looked the other way and shielded the powerful from accountability. In 2025, in response to growing demands from the public, Congress passed HR 4405, The Epstein Files Transparency Act. This law required the release of all files related to the Epstein investigation. Instead, President Trump, Attorney General Bondi, and FBI Director Patel have redacted, stonewalled, delayed, and continue to defy a congressional subpoena. In doing so, they have failed over a hundred survivors whose identifying information was carelessly exposed, retraumatizing the very people this law was designed to protect. Through this resolution, we are demanding the release of all relevant information and that law enforcement pursue accountability for individuals complicit in Epstein's crimes regardless of their title or wealth and sending an unambiguous message to survivors: we see you, we believe you, and we will keep fighting for you. The survivors of Jeffrey Epstein's criminal enterprise have waited long enough. Justice delayed is justice denied — and this Legislature refuses to let their voices be buried under millions of redacted pages.

2. The Crimes of Jeffrey Epstein

Today, the multifarious and abhorrent crimes of Jeffrey Epstein are well documented and well known to the public, but nearly three decades ago, when the FBI first received a complaint about his possible criminal misconduct, Epstein was a successful financial consultant building relationships with some of the world's richest and most powerful individuals.¹ In the 1990s, Epstein began living a double life: he cultivated an image of a brilliant financier and fixer for powerful elites while laying the foundations of a secret global network of sexual exploitation. Epstein's ascent in the 1990's was largely fueled by his complete social and financial capture of billionaire Leslie Wexner, which gave Epstein access to a vast pool of resources from which he would build his criminal enterprise. During this period, and through his association with Wexner, Epstein also began building a massive, far-reaching social network, developing strong connections to people like Bill Clinton, Donald Trump, and Prince Andrew, and established his nefarious partnership with prominent British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, a network he effectively leveraged to amass a fortune and later to launder his reputation in the wake of his crimes.²

¹ In 1996, Maria Farmer filed a report with the FBI alleging that Epstein had stolen photographs she had taken of her underage siblings, then threatened her. "Jeffrey Epstein survivor 'redeemed' by release of her 1996 FBI complaint." *USA Today*. 21 December 2025. [Epstein files show Maria Farmer reported him to the FBI in 1996](#)

² "Les Wexner's ties to Jeffrey Epstein, explained. *AXIOS Columbus*. 18 February 2026. [Why Ohio billionaire Les Wexner is facing new scrutiny over his Jeffrey Epstein ties - Axios Columbus](#) ; Helmore, Edward. "Jeffrey Epstein's elite circle was huge. What do the documents show about his lifestyle and \$580m fortune?" *The Guardian*. 3 January 2024. [Jeffrey Epstein's elite circle was huge. What do the documents show about his lifestyle and \\$580m fortune? | Jeffrey Epstein | The Guardian](#) ; "How Jeffrey Epstein sought to infiltrate the justice system." *The Miami Herald*. 27 February 2026. [Epstein sought to build ties with Acosta, other prosecutors | Miami Herald](#)

Epstein's criminal enterprise started to come to light in March 2005, when the police in Palm Beach, Florida started investigating Epstein after the family of a 14-year-old girl reported that she was molested at his mansion. As more heinous crimes were exposed over the subsequent year, police in Palm Beach built a case against Epstein that resulted in his arrest in July 2006 after a grand jury indicted him on one count of soliciting prostitution. This relatively minor charge in the face of Epstein's alleged sexual misconduct infuriated local leaders, prompting a federal investigation, which resulted in the preparation of a 53-page, 60-count indictment based on evidence involving over 30 underage victims.³ However, despite this overwhelming evidence of wrongdoing, federal prosecutors, led by United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Alex Acosta, entered into a secretive (and upon being made public, highly controversial) plea agreement with Epstein in which he would plead guilty to two state-level prostitution charges, register as a sex offender, and serve 18 months in county jail (of which he ultimately served 13 months) with nearly unrestricted daily work release.⁴ This plea deal also included a non-prosecution agreement that extended immunity from prosecution for federal crimes not only to Epstein but to four named co-conspirators and any unnamed "potential co-conspirators."⁵ It was this lenient agreement with federal prosecutors that allowed Epstein to quickly return to his life of luxury and resume his sinister criminal enterprises.

3. Epstein's 2019 Arrest and Death

Nearly a decade after Epstein's release in 2009, the Miami Herald published a damning investigative series entitled "Perversion of Justice" in 2018, exposing Epstein's sweetheart deal and giving new voice to dozens of Epstein's victims, many of whom had taken independent legal action against Epstein in the intervening years.⁶ Coupled with the burgeoning "#Me Too" movement that was empowering victims of sexual abuse nationwide, the Herald's incendiary journalism seemed to strip away Epstein's veneer of social immunity and prompted federal authorities in New York to re-open the investigation into his crimes. In July of 2019, Epstein was arrested on charges of sex trafficking during the years 2002 to 2005, and searches of Epstein's various properties yielded a trove of incriminating evidence, including thousands of sexually explicit photographs of young women and girls.⁷ A key excerpt from the indictment read:

From at least 2002 through at least 2005, JEFFREY EPSTEIN enticed and recruited, and caused to be enticed and recruited, dozens of minor girls to visit his mansion in New York, New York [...] and his estate in Palm Beach, Florida, to engage in sex acts with him, after which he would give the victims hundreds of dollars in cash. In order to maintain and increase his supply of victims, EPSTEIN also paid certain victims to recruit additional underage girls whom he could similarly abuse.

³ "A timeline of the Jeffrey Epstein investigation and the fight to make the government's files public." *Associated Press*. 5 February 2026. [A timeline of the Jeffrey Epstein investigation | AP News](#) "For years, Jeffrey Epstein abused teen girls, police say. A timeline of his case." *Miami Herald*. 28 November 2018. [Timeline of the Jeffrey Epstein sex abuse case | Miami Herald](#)

⁴ "How Jeffrey Epstein Worked the South Florida Legal System." *The New Republic*. 26 February 2026. [How Jeffrey Epstein Worked the South Florida Legal System | The New Republic](#)

⁵ "In Re: Investigation of Jeffrey Epstein: Non-Prosecution Agreement." Page 5. [Epstein-Acosta-Agreement.pdf](#)

⁶ "Perversion of Justice: The Jeffrey Epstein story." *The Miami Herald*. Articles Published 2018 – 2026. [Jeffrey Epstein: Perversion of Justice investigation, news | Miami Herald](#)

⁷ "FBI concluded Jeffrey Epstein wasn't running a sex trafficking ring for powerful men, files show." *Associated Press*. 8 February 2026. [Inside the FBI's investigation of Jeffrey Epstein | AP News](#)

In this way, EPSTEIN created a vast network of underage victims for him to sexually exploit, often on a daily basis, in locations including New York and Palm Beach.⁸

Epstein's request to be released on bond was denied, and he remained incarcerated in New York City's Metropolitan Correctional Center until August 10, when he was found dead in his cell. Although the medical examiner officially ruled the death a suicide by hanging, the chaotic and peculiar circumstances of his death fueled a whirlwind of conspiracy theories, many of which centered around the narrative of an assassination intended to protect powerful associates involved in his crimes. However, subsequent investigations, both by journalists and law enforcement, ultimately supported the conclusion that Epstein was psychologically troubled in the wake of his arrest and did in fact take his own life.⁹

In the years following Epstein's death, public interest in his misconduct was bolstered by the criminal trial of his longtime partner and accomplice, Ghislaine Maxwell, who, in June 2022, was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison for sex trafficking and other crimes. Two years later, public interest in the Epstein saga surged once again when a federal judge unsealed a new batch of previously secret court documents regarding Epstein's crimes arising out of a lawsuit filed in 2015 by one of his victims, Virginia Giuffre. Tragically, Giuffre committed suicide in April 2025, just as public outcry for the release of *all* Epstein-related documents in the government's possession began to catch the attention of a bipartisan group of lawmakers in Washington, D.C.¹⁰

4. The Fight Over the Epstein Files

During the 2024 presidential campaign, Donald Trump ran—as he did in 2016—on “draining the swamp” and breaking up the so-called “deep state.” When asked about declassifying government records related to certain high-profile investigations, such as the Martin Luther King Jr. assassination and the 9/11 attacks, Trump did not hesitate to declassify all investigation files once he took office. However, when asked about the Epstein files, he was notably more circumspect but ultimately agreed to a broad disclosure of information.¹¹ By the middle of 2025, the American public, and especially Trump's Republican base, was clamoring for the release of the full Epstein files, especially after the House Oversight Committee began releasing small batches of documents received from the Department of Justice and the Epstein estate in September of that year.¹² Between September and December of 2005, the House Oversight Committee released tens of thousands documents and photos that together painted a vivid picture of Epstein's vast social network and political ties, revealing connections with such prominent

⁸ “Jeffrey Epstein Charged In Manhattan Federal Court With Sex Trafficking Of Minors.” *Press Release, United States Attorneys Office for the Southern District of New York*. 8 July 2019. [Southern District of New York | Jeffrey Epstein Charged In Manhattan Federal Court With Sex Trafficking Of Minors | United States Department of Justice](#)

⁹ “New details of Jeffrey Epstein's death and the frantic aftermath revealed in records obtained by AP.” *Associated Press*. 1 June 2023. [New details of Jeffrey Epstein's death and the frantic aftermath revealed in records obtained by AP | AP News](#); Memo Published by the United States Department of Justice, July 2025. [FBI Memo, July 2025](#).

¹⁰ “Associated Press Timeline,” see fn. 3, *supra*; “Unsealed court records offer new detail on old sex abuse allegations against Jeffrey Epstein.” *Associated Press*. 3 January 2024. [Jeffrey Epstein: Court records give new details on sex abuse allegations | AP News](#)

¹¹ “Amid Campaign, Trump Kept Epstein Issue at Arm's Length. His Allies Did Not.” *TIME Magazine*. 17 July 2025. [Here's What Trump Said About Epstein During the Campaign | TIME](#)

¹² “Oversight Committee Releases Epstein Records Provided by the Department of Justice.” *House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*. 2 September 2025.

elites as Peter Thiel, Elon Musk, Steven Bannon, Bill Gates, Bill Clinton, and of course, Donald Trump himself.¹³

Concurrent with the House Oversight Committee's release of documents, Kentucky Representative Thomas Massie began circulating a discharge petition, which, with enough signatures from House members, would force a vote of the full House on whether to require the Justice Department to release all Epstein files in their possession. During the discharge petition process, many efforts were taken to delay the gathering of sufficient signatures, including the delayed swearing-in of a newly elected member from Arizona, and efforts by members of the Trump Administration, including Attorney General Pam Bondi, to pressure one Republican signatory, Lauren Boebert, to remove her name.¹⁴ The success of the discharge petition required a vote on legislation coauthored by Massie and Democrat Ro Khanna, the Epstein Files Transparency Act (hereinafter, "the Act"), which requires the Attorney General to make publicly available in a searchable and downloadable format all files pertaining to the prosecution of Jeffrey Epstein within 30 days of the passage of the Act. The Act easily passed both houses of Congress and was signed by President Trump on November 19, 2025. Nevertheless, given some of the Act's exemptions to the requirement that the Attorney General release the Epstein files, many of its champions remained concerned that many critical documents would not be disclosed.¹⁵

These concerns turned out to be well founded, as the release of the Epstein files has been marred by a series of logistical failures since the signing of the Act, from significant delays and inconsistent or improper redactions to the conspicuous withholding of millions of documents. For instance, in a massive release of documents on January 30, 2026, totaling some 3 million pages, many of the files released included the names and faces of sexual abuse victims, and others showed unredacted bank account and social security information. Even some nude photos were released.¹⁶ Recent reports also indicate that the Justice Department, for reasons unknown, appears to be retracting or withholding files that were previously released, including one that includes an interview with a woman who accused President Trump of sexually assaulting her when she was a minor.¹⁷

This resolution formally condemns sex trafficking and denounces Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell and their accomplices, as well as President Trump's efforts to prevent the release of the Epstein files, and his "administration's attempts to deny justice for survivors through continued

¹³ "The 9 most shocking revelations in the Epstein docs." *Politico*. 12 November 2025. [The 9 most shocking revelations in the Epstein docs - POLITICO](#); "Epstein files reveal his obsession with Trump." *The Miami Herald*. 14 November 2025. [Donald Trump is mentioned in sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein's emails over 1,000 times. | Miami Herald](#).

¹⁴ "Epstein discharge petition secures final signature needed to force House vote on releasing files." *CBS News*. 12 November 2025. [Epstein discharge petition secures final signature needed to force House vote on releasing files - CBS News](#); "Exclusive: Trump administration holds Situation Room meeting over House effort to force release of all of DOJ's Epstein files." *CNN*. 12 November 2025. [Exclusive: Trump administration holds Situation Room meeting over House effort to force release of all of DOJ's Epstein files | CNN Politics](#)

¹⁵ "Trump Approves the Release of the Epstein Files but Loopholes Remain." *New York Times*. 19 November 2025. [Trump Approves the Epstein Files Release, but Some May Be Withheld - The New York Times](#)

¹⁶ Epstein files rife with uncensored nudes and victims' names, despite redaction efforts." *Associated Press*. 4 February 2026. [Epstein files rife with uncensored nudes and victims' names, despite redaction efforts](#)

¹⁷ "The DOJ has been taking down Epstein files. Here's what remains." *CBS News*. 3 March 2026. [The DOJ has been taking down Epstein files. Here's what remains.](#); "Justice Department withheld and removed some Epstein files related to Trump." *NPR News*. 24 February 2026. [DOJ removed, withheld Epstein files related to accusations about Trump : NPR](#)

self-serving efforts to withhold and redact information with no transparency.” Further, the resolution urges Congress to continue to exercise its oversight authority and hold President Trump and Attorney General Bondi accountable for not complying with its subpoena or the Act.

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