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## Healthcare Laws and Policies: “Shield” or “Refuge” Laws Protecting Access to Transgender Health Care

No updates required since May 11, 2023

Transgender people’s access to best practice health care—sometimes also called gender-affirming care—is increasingly under attack. In response, a growing number of states are taking action to protect access to this medically necessary health care. These “shield” or “refuge” laws can vary from one state to the next, but their primary goal is to protect transgender people, their families, and their medical providers against these ongoing attacks and to protect access to transgender-related health care.

For more information about recent attacks on transgender youth’s healthcare, see our [Equality Map: Bans on Best Practice Medical Care for Transgender Youth](#) (updated and maintained in real time) and its corresponding [citation sheet](#), which contains additional state-by-state information, links, and analysis.

For more information about the broader attacks on transgender healthcare, see our [2023 spotlight report](#), detailing how these attacks are becoming more extreme over time, including to encompass transgender adults.

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### Alabama

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### Alaska

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### Arizona

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### Arkansas

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### California

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [SB107](#) (2022)

### Colorado

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [SB23-188](#) (2023)

### Connecticut

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [HB5506](#) (see [this amendment](#), Sec. 503, starting p13) (2022)



### **Delaware**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **District of Columbia**

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [B24-0830/Law 24-307](#) (2023)

### **Florida**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Georgia**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Hawai`i**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Idaho**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Illinois**

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [HB4664](#) (2023)

### **Indiana**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Iowa**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Kansas**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Kentucky**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Louisiana**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Maine**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Maryland**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care



### Massachusetts

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [H5090](#) (2022)

### Michigan

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### Minnesota

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [HF146](#) (April 2023) and [Executive Order 23-03](#) (March 2023)

### Mississippi

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### Missouri

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### Montana

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### Nebraska

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### Nevada

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### New Hampshire

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### New Jersey

- State has “shield” or “refuge” executive order protecting access to transgender health care
- See [Executive Order 326](#) (2023)

### New Mexico

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [SB13](#) (2023). See also [HB7](#) (2023), prohibiting public bodies (e.g., state or local governments, agencies, school districts, etc) from discriminating against people seeking transgender-related care and/or reproductive care.

### New York

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### North Carolina

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care



#### **North Dakota**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **Ohio**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **Oklahoma**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **Oregon**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **Pennsylvania**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **Rhode Island**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **South Carolina**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **South Dakota**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **Tennessee**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **Texas**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **Utah**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **Vermont**

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [H89](#) (2023)

#### **Virginia**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

#### **Washington**

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [HB1469](#) (2023)



### **West Virginia**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Wisconsin**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Wyoming**

- No state “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

## **U.S. Territories**

### **American Samoa**

- No territory “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Guam**

- No territory “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Northern Mariana Islands**

- No territory “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **Puerto Rico**

- No territory “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

### **U.S. Virgin Islands**

- No territory “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care

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## **Order of “Shield” or “Refuge” Laws**

### **2022**

1. Connecticut – [HB5506](#) (see [this amendment](#), Sec. 503, starting p13) – May 7, 2022
2. Massachusetts – [H5090](#) – July 29, 2022
3. California – [SB107](#) – September 9, 2022

### **2023**

4. District of Columbia – [B24-0830](#) – January 10, 2023
5. Illinois – [HB4664](#) – January 13, 2023
6. Minnesota – [Executive Order 23-03](#) – March 8, 2023
7. New Jersey – [Executive Order 326](#) – April 4, 2023
8. New Mexico – [SB13](#) – April 6, 2023
9. Colorado – [SB23-188](#) – April 21, 2023



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Minnesota – [HF146](#) – April 27, 2023 (building on earlier executive order)

10. Washington – [HB1469](#) – April 27, 2023

11. Vermont – [H89](#) – May 10, 2023