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

No updates required since September 26, 2024

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Background

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.

Equality Map & Additional Resources

- See our [Equality Map: Transgender Healthcare “Shield” Laws](#), which is updated and maintained in real-time alongside this document.
- Thank you to our colleagues at [GLAD](#) for their support in creating and maintaining this map and related research.
- See also 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.



Summary Tables

Table 1: Summary and Legislation/Executive Orders

Category	Count	List	Bill/ Link	Year
States with “shield” or “refuge” legislation protecting access to transgender health care	14 states + D.C.	California	SB 107	2022
		Colorado	SB 23-188	2023
		Connecticut	HB 5506 (see p13)	2022
		District of Columbia	B 24-0830	2023
		Illinois	HB 4664	2023
		Maine	LD 227	2024
		Maryland	SB 119	2024
		Massachusetts	H 5090	2022
		Minnesota	HF 146	2023
		New Mexico	SB 13	2023
		New York	S 2475B	2023
		Oregon	HB 2002	2023
		Rhode Island	H 7577 / S 2262	2024
		Vermont	H 89 / S 37	2023
Washington	HB 1469	2023		
States with “shield” or “refuge” executive order only protecting access to transgender health care	2 states	Arizona	Executive Order 2023-12	2023
		New Jersey	Executive Order 326	2023
States with no “shield” or “refuge” policy for transgender health care	34 states + 5 territories	Alabama Alaska Arkansas Delaware Florida Georgia Hawai`i Idaho Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Michigan Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah		



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		Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming American Samoa Guam Northern Mariana Islands Puerto Rico U.S. Virgin Islands		
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Chronology

Order of “Shield” or “Refuge” Laws and Executive Orders (by date of governor signature; not by effective date)

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
Minnesota – [HF146](#) – April 27, 2023 (building on earlier executive order)
10. Washington – [HB1469](#) – April 27, 2023
11. Vermont – [H89](#) / [S37](#) – May 10, 2023
12. Maryland – [Executive Order 01.01.2023.08](#) – June 5, 2023
13. New York – [S2475B](#) – June 25, 2023
14. Arizona – [Executive Order 2023-12](#) – June 27, 2023
15. Oregon – [HB2002](#) – July 13, 2023

2024

16. Maine – [LD 227](#) – April 22, 2024
Maryland – [SB119](#) – May 16, 2024 (building on earlier executive order)
17. Rhode Island – [H 7577/S 2262](#) – June 26, 2024



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State-by-State Sources and More Detail

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

- State has “shield” or “refuge” executive order protecting access to transgender health care
- See [Executive Order 2023-12](#) (2023)

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

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [LD 227](#) (2024)

Maryland

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [SB119](#) (2024) and earlier [Executive Order 01.01.2023.08](#) (2023)

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 earlier [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

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [S2475B](#) (2023)

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

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [HB2002](#) (2023)



Pennsylvania

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

Rhode Island

- State has “shield” or “refuge” law protecting access to transgender health care
- See [H 7577/S 2262](#) (2024)

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](#) / [S37](#) (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



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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