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

No updates required since July 17, 2023

### What’s in this document (click to jump to that section):

<b>Background</b> .....	2
<b>Equality Map &amp; Additional Resources</b> .....	2
<b>Summary Tables</b> .....	3
Table 1: Summary and Legislation/Executive Orders .....	3
<b>Chronology</b> .....	4
<b>State-by-State Sources and More Detail</b> .....	5

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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.
- 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” <b>legislation</b> protecting access to transgender health care	11 states + D.C.	California	<a href="#">SB107</a>	2022
		Colorado	<a href="#">SB23-188</a>	2023
		Connecticut	<a href="#">HB5506</a> (see p13)	2022
		District of Columbia	<a href="#">B24-0830</a>	2023
		Illinois	<a href="#">HB4664</a>	2023
		Massachusetts	<a href="#">H5090</a>	2022
		Minnesota	<a href="#">HF146</a> <a href="#">Executive Order 23-03</a>	April 2023 March 2023
		New Mexico	<a href="#">SB13</a>	2023
		New York	<a href="#">S2475B</a>	2023
		Oregon	<a href="#">HB2002</a>	2023
		Vermont	<a href="#">H89</a>	2023
Washington	<a href="#">HB1469</a>	2023		
States with “shield” or “refuge” <b>executive order</b> only protecting access to transgender health care	3 states	Arizona	<a href="#">Executive Order 2023-12</a>	2023
		Maryland	<a href="#">Executive Order 01.01.2023.08</a>	2023
		New Jersey	<a href="#">Executive Order 326</a>	2023
States with no “shield” or “refuge” policy for transgender health care	36 states + 5 territories	Alabama Alaska Arkansas Delaware Florida Georgia Hawai`i Idaho Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Michigan Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania Rhode Island 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](#) – 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



## 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

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

### Maryland

- State has “shield” or “refuge” executive order protecting access to transgender health care
- See [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 [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**

- 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





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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