

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* **AMERICA**
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

States Act to Protect Vulnerable Youth from Medical Harm

Since 2021, twenty-two states [22] have enacted laws to protect minors struggling with identity from the deception and irreversible damage of puberty blocking drugs, cross-sex hormones, and mutilating surgeries to “reassign” their sex.

- Public opinion polling consistently shows [substantial majorities](#) opposing the practice of so-called “gender-affirming care.”
- European countries like Sweden, Finland, France, and the United Kingdom once at the forefront of condoning the practice have taken a U-turn citing the complete lack of proven benefit, life-long damage to health, and patient regret.
- 2023 has witnessed an explosion of state activity to prohibit these practices. Democrat lawmakers in some states are breaking with their party’s activist opposition to support the bills.

In 2021, **Arkansas** became the first state in the nation to enact the Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act prohibiting the medical industry from prescribing drugs and medical procedures for minors claiming to be the opposite sex. The bill became law by overriding the veto of Republican Gov. Asa Hutchison.

In 2022, two [2] states enacted laws to protect minors from medical harm of sex reassignment drugs and surgeries.

- **Alabama** enacted the Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act signed by Republican Gov. Kay Ivey to protect children from experimental medical interventions that have no proven benefits and carry substantial risks of long-term harm.
- **Arizona** enacted a law signed by Republican Gov. Doug Ducey banning medical surgeries on minors identifying as the opposite sex.

In 2023, nineteen [19] states have enacted laws protecting children and youth from damaging, experimental sex reassignment drugs and surgeries reflecting an explosion of momentum and nationwide concern with the practice.

- **Iowa, Idaho, Indiana, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia** enacted laws signed by Republican governors.
- **Kentucky** and Kansas legislatures passed bills vetoed by Democrat governors. Kentucky overrode Gov. Andy Beshear’s veto to become law. An attempt in Kansas to override the veto of Democrat Gov. Laura Kelly failed.
- Texas’ law, signed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, gained the support of three Democrat state representatives.
- **Louisiana** overrode the veto of Democrat Gov. John Bel Edwards with bipartisan support in both chambers.
- **North Carolina** General Assembly overrode the veto of Democrat Gov. Roy Cooper with the support of two House Democrats.