

September 16, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

On behalf of the 111 undersigned reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations; civil rights advocates; LGBTQ groups; privacy organizations; religious liberty groups; and health care provider organizations, **we urge you to expediently sign three critical bills:** Shield Law 2.0, S.4914-B/A.5480-C; the New York Health Information Privacy Act, S.929/A.2141; and Hospital Transparency, S.3486/A.3862.

You have long stood up for gender and abortion justice. You repeatedly increased state funding for abortion¹ and quickly signed New York's first shield bills into law as other states have sought to punish our providers.² Right now, more than ever, we need our champions. Signing these three bills is critical to protecting patients and providers and advancing our movement.

Access to abortion care and LGBTQ communities are under unprecedented attack. Abortion providers and patients across the nation, including here in New York, are being pursued³ and prosecuted.⁴ For example, Texas has used a nationwide network of automated license plate readers (ALPRs) – including ALPRs in access states – to track down Texans suspected of traveling to receive abortion care.⁵ A jury recently ruled that

¹ E.g. Press Release: Governor Kathy Hochul, Safe, Legal and Accessible: Governor Hochul Announces New Funding for Abortion Health Care Services Statewide (June 24) (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/safe-legal-and-accessible-governor-hochul-announces-new-funding-abortion-health-care-services>).

² E.g. Pam Belluck & Emily Bazelon, *New York Passes Bill to Shield Abortion Providers Sending Pills Into States with Bans*, NY TIMES, June 20, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/20/health/abortion-shield-law-new-york.html>.

³ Cameron Thompson, *Texas man sues California doctor over medication abortion*, COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE, July 22, 2025, <https://www.courthousenews.com/texas-man-sues-california-doctor-over-medication-abortion/>.

⁴ Jamie Stengle, *New York doctor is fined in Texas, charged in Louisiana over abortion pills in tests of shield laws*, AP, Feb. 14, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/abortion-doctor-maggie-carpenter-pills-847112cde026e29333c3481310593582>.

⁵ Rindala Alajaji, *She Got an Abortion. So A Texas Cop Used 83,000 Cameras to Track Her Down*, EFF, May 30, 2025, <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/05/she-got-abortion-so-texas-cop-used-83000-cameras-track-her-down>.

Meta, Facebook's parent company, collected, recorded, used, and profited from identifiable period tracking app data – all without the knowledge of or consent from the people who used the app⁶ – and creating untold vulnerabilities for these individuals. Meanwhile, abortion and gender-affirming care patients do not know which hospitals provide the care they need, and there is no centralized or user-friendly way to ascertain this information – a need that has reached fever-pitch as hospitals began to cancel appointments in advanced acquiescence with Trump's executive orders⁷ and in violation of state law.⁸

The legislature passed three bills this session to address these problems, and we are urging you to sign them into law today:

First, **Shield Law 2.0, S.4914-B/A.5480-C**, will strengthen, and fill gaps in, our state's shield laws to ensure that New York State will not be complicit in hostile states' and the Trump Administration's efforts to investigate, prosecute, or punish those who seek, provide, and support reproductive health care and gender-affirming care in New York.

Second, the **New York Health Information Privacy Act, S.929/A.2141**, will give New Yorkers more control over our electronic health information, like Fitbit, smartwatch, and period tracking app data, and make it harder for hostile states or the federal government to use those data to investigate, prosecute, or punish people who seek, provide, or support access to health reproductive health care and gender-affirming care in New York.

Third, **Hospital Transparency, S.3486/A.3862**, will give New Yorkers the tools to find out whether the hospital in their area provides the care they need prior to admission and will assist the State in identifying care deserts where particular types of health care are completely unavailable, laying the groundwork to ensure that all New Yorkers can receive comprehensive health care regardless of their zip codes. Circumstances have significantly changed since a similar bill was vetoed last year, and we believe the veto message relied on

⁶ Margaret Attridge, *Meta violated privacy law, jury says in menstrual data fight*, COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE, Aug. 1, 2025, <https://www.courthousenews.com/meta-violated-privacy-law-jury-says-in-menstrual-data-fight/>.

⁷ Matt Tracy, *Queens officials condemn NYU Langone, Mount Sinai's decision to cancel youth gender-affirming care*, QNS, Feb. 3, 2025, <https://qns.com/2025/02/queens-officials-condemn-nyu-langone-mount-sinai/>.

⁸ Letter to Colleague from Letitia James, NY Attorney General (Feb. 3, 2025) (<https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/letters/ag-james-to-hc-providers-re-tro-letter-2025.pdf>).

inaccurate information related to the hospital landscape and expected cost of the measure.⁹

Throughout your time in office, you have shown up for our communities, and for access to reproductive health care, when we've needed you. We are counting on you to do the same now by expediently signing Shield Law 2.0, the New York Health Information Privacy Act, and Hospital Transparency.

Sincerely,

Abortion Coalition for Telemedicine
Advocacy & Services for LGBTQ+ Elders – SAGE
Advocates for Trans Equality (A4TE)
Albany Damien Center
The Ali Forney Center
All* Above All
American Atheists
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District II
American Humanist Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Amida Care
Behavioral Psych Studio
Bend the Arc Jewish Action - Long Island
BKForge: Brooklyn for Reproductive and Gender Equity
Blue Canary Therapy
Broadway Advocacy Coalition
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center
CCoHope Indivisible
Center for Reproductive Rights
Children's Defense Fund-New York
Chosen Family Law Center
Collar City Pride, Inc.

⁹ See Letter from NYCLU, Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts, and National Institute for Reproductive Health to Dr. Doug Fish, Deputy Commissioner, Primary Care & Health Systems Management, and Mark Hennessey, Director, Center for Health Care Provider Services & Oversight, New York State Department of Health (Aug. 12, 2025) (<https://www.nyclu.org/resources/policy/testimonies/letter-to-doh-and-gov-on-hospital-transparency>).

Community Service Society of New York
Compassion & Choices
Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST)
Downtown Women for Change
Dulcinea Pitagora LCSW PLLC
Empire Justice Center
Equality New York
Family Equality
FLX Beacon
Free to Be Youth Project-Urban Justice Center
Gender Equality Law Center, Inc.
Gender Equality New York, Inc.
Get Organized Brooklyn - By Day
Girls for Gender Equity
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality
GLYS Western New York
Golden Psychology
Hetrick-Martin Institute
Housing Works, Inc.
Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights Campaign/ NY Board of Directors & Board of Governors
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
Indivisible Brooklyn
Jews for a Secular Democracy
Jews For Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)
Lambda Independent Democrats of Brooklyn
The Latina Institute New York
Lawyers for Good Government
League of Women Voters of Albany County
League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County
Legal Action Center
The Legal Aid Society
Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund
The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center
Long Island Social Justice Action Network (LISJAN)
M+A Hotline
Make the Road NY

National Abortion Federation
National Council of Jewish Women New York
National Harm Reduction Coalition
National Institute for Reproductive Health Action Fund
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Women's Law Center
NEW Pride Agenda
New York Civil Liberties Union
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI)
New York Midwives
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
The New York State LGBT Health and Human Services Network (The Network) // The
Network at The Center
New York Transgender Advocacy Group (NYTAG)
New York Unitarian Universalist Justice
Next Generation Men Of Transition
Northwest Bronx Indivisible
NYCD16/15-Indivisible
NYC for Abortion Rights
Oakland Privacy
Patient Forward
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts
Popular Front Project
Positive Women's Network-USA
PowHer New York
Pregnancy Justice
Pride Center of WNY
Public Health Solutions
Purple Sage Psychiatry, Inc.
Reach Out America
Reproductive Freedom for All
Reproductive Health Access Project
Ryan Health
SAFETY
Schenectady Coalition for Healthcare Access
SiX Action

Society for Humanistic Judaism
START Treatment and Recovery Center
Stonewall Democratic Club of NYC
Surveillance Technology Oversight Project
Thriving Mental Health Counseling NY PLLC
Trans formative Schools
Treatment Action Group
Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood
Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY, Inc.
WAVE Women Inc.
WCLA – Choice Matters
Westchester Citizen Therapists Indivisible
Westchester Women’s Agenda