



# NATIONAL HEALTH FREEDOM ACTION

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## National Health Freedom Action STATE ACTION UPDATE

### *Laws Impacting the Right of Unlicensed Health Care Practitioners to Practice* **September 2022**

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**NHFA is committed to supporting state bills promoting freedom of choice in health care including** State Safe Harbor Exemption laws to protect access to unlicensed natural health care practitioners. The goal is to empower citizens to make health care decisions with the information they need.

Regarding NHFA's commitment to support **the passage of Safe Harbor Exemption bills for protecting access to independent health care practitioners who do not hold state occupational licenses and are currently practicing in the public domain:** Historically these practitioners have been unfairly charged with practice of medicine without a license. Safe Harbor exemption laws for these practitioners are needed in order to protect consumer access to the broad range of health care and healing practitioners, such as herbalists, traditional naturopaths, homeopaths, body workers, and culturally specific healing practices, that are not currently licensed or registered by the states and that do not rise to the level of concern requiring state oversight, certification, registration, or licensure.

Eleven states now protect consumer access to unlicensed health care practitioners, including ***Oklahoma, Idaho, Minnesota, Rhode Island, California, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona*** (limited exemption for homeopaths passed in Arizona), ***Colorado, Nevada and Maine***. Fifteen additional states have introduced similar legislation within the past ten years. **Green indicates that a Safe Harbor law has passed, in some form, in that state.**

The following is a table of bills that may be helpful to you.

**If your state is not listed, go to NHFA's interactive website map on states for safe harbor information.**  
**<https://nationalhealthfreedomaction.org/>**

#### **Mission Statement**

*To promote access to all health care information, services, treatments and products that the people deem beneficial for their own health and survival; to promote legislative reform of the laws impacting the right to access;  
and to promote the health of the people of this nation.*

<b>State</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Bill</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	2017-2018	H.B. 2411 Board Study of Homeopathic Licensing Regulation	Approved by the Governor on April 17, 2018
	2011	S.B. 1382 Freeing up use of title homeopath for homeopaths practicing under exemption laws	<b>SUPPORTED and PASSED</b>
<b>California</b>	2017 - 2018	S.B. 796 Bill to repeal protection of traditional naturopaths	Amended and protection maintained
	2001	S.B. 577 Safe Harbor exemption for unlicensed practitioners	<b>SUPPORTED and PASSED</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	2020	House Bill Draft: Parent's Bill of Rights	Gave draft recommendations
	2013	S.B. 215 Natural Health Consumer Protection Act (safe harbor protecting unlicensed practitioners)	<b>Supported and Passed but with negative amendment needing to be repealed; Signed June 5, 2013</b>
<b>Connecticut</b>	2022	Joint committee on public health added complementary and alternative health care to public health bill HB5500	Supported and Passed as a study bill with a deadline to report back in 2023
	2021-2022	HB 6015 Introduced Feb 2021, sponsored by Representative Charles J. Ferraro and was assigned to the Joint Committee on Public Health on Jan. 28, 2021	No movement
	2017 - 2018	HB 5759 Safe Harbor bill prepared and introduced	No hearing
<b>Delaware</b>	2017-2018	Undesirable Dietitian bill but with health freedom language for exemption of nutrition consulting	Amended with bad language and eventually opposed
<b>Florida</b>	2017-2018	House Bill 1047: Undesirable Dietitian bill but with health freedom	Neutral; then amended with bad language and opposed Bill died in

		language for exemption of nutrition consulting	Committee.
<b>Idaho</b>	2017	H.B. 129 Dietitian Licensure Amendment Bill	Neutral; Passed and protected the descriptor “nutrition”
	1976	Most historic Safe Harbor Exemption bill	Passed
<b>Iowa</b>	2022	HF 404 Alternative and complementary medicine bill introduced	Supported; did not pass Committee or make it to the House floor
	2019	SF261/HF332 Safe Harbor Practitioner Exemption bill introduced and heard in Senate hearings	Supported; did not pass Committee or make it to the Senate floor
<b>Louisiana</b>	2015	H.B. 342 Adding Vaccine for Meningococcal disease to schedule for school kids and day cares	Opposed; Adopted July 1, 2015
	2008	Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom law amendments	Supported and Passed
	2005	S.B.189 Safe Harbor Exemption bill	SUPPORTED and PASSED
<b>Maine</b>	2019	LD 364 Safe Harbor practitioner exemption bill	Supported and Passed, Signed into law June 11, 2019
	2018	Request from group to begin safe harbor practitioner exemption legislation drafting	Supported
<b>Massachusetts</b>	2022	H2343 Passed first committee and referred to second committee hearing where it failed.	Did not pass
	2017-2018	S.2621 Bodywork Licensing	Opposed; Not passed before end of session
<b>Michigan</b>	2017-2018	S.B. 826 Naturopathic licensing bill that does not adequately exempt out the unlicensed practitioners	Opposed and NHFA offered amendments and that were not added before the floor vote and the Senate passed the bill as introduced and referred it to the House. Then referred

			to the Committee on Health Policy but did not move in the House before the end of session.
<b>Minnesota</b>	2017 - 2018	MN HF 96, imposing barriers on parental decision making on vaccine exemptions	Opposed; introduced and referred to the Senate Health, Human Services Reform Committee and not passed
	2000	H.F. 537/S.B. 689 Complementary and Alternative Health Care bill	<b>SUPPORTED and PASSED</b>
<b>Nevada</b>	2015	A.B. 295 Wellness Services Bill (Safe Harbor Practitioner Exemption bill)	Supported; Passed and Governor Signed on June 9, 2015
<b>New Mexico</b>	2015	H.B. 522 Severely restricts religious exemptions to vaccination	Opposed; (H) Died in Committee in February 2015
	2009	H.B. 664 Safe Harbor Exemption health freedom bill	<b>SUPPORTED AND PASSED</b>
<b>North Dakota</b>	2022	Bill introduced by legislator but without a group present in the state to support	Bill did not move out of committee
<b>Ohio</b>	2017-2018	H.B. 49, Governor's Budget bill with 2 Amendments to Expand Nutrition and Dietetic Practice	Supported both amendments; one passed and one did not
<b>Oklahoma</b>	2017 - 2018	Interest in safe harbor bill or treaty bill	Supported
	1994	Exemptions for practices not allopathic and mentioning protection of homeopathic	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Oregon</b>	2022	Group looking for sponsor	
	2017 - 2018	H.B. 2303 A-3, Attempting to restrict Wellness Coaches, Life Coaches, and Hypnotherapists	Opposed; not passed before end of session
<b>Rhode Island</b>	2016	S.B. 2292 Reinstates the philosophical exemption to vaccinations and restricts the department of health's authority to	Supported; Health and Human Services Committee recommended be held for further study on March 31, 2016

		impose and/or change the current mandated Vaccinations	
	2001	Safe Harbor Exemption bill	<b>SUPPORTED AND PASSED</b>
<b>South Dakota</b>	2017 - 2018	New group there wants to begin safe harbor exemption legislation, we sent draft	Supported
<b>Washington</b>	2017-2018	Homeopathic exemption bill drafted	Supported; efforts to find a sponsor ended when they learned a committee chair would not hear their bill
<b>Wisconsin</b>	2022	Wisconsin's Complementary and Alternative Practices bill, <a href="#">AB 86</a> passed the Assembly and the Senate.	Supported; Vetoed by Gov. Evers on May 17, 2022
	2017-2018	SB 678/AB 864, the "Consumer Protection for Alternative Healthcare Act", a Safe Harbor Practitioner Exemption Bill	Supported; not passed before end of session

**NHFA is committed to supporting state bills promoting freedom of choice in health care such as:** State Safe Harbor Exemption laws to protect access to unlicensed natural health care practitioners. The goal is to empower citizens to make health care decisions with the information they need.

Expanded Care Practice Acts for access to holistic doctors and other holistic licensed professionals; Bills calling for access to mercury free vaccines; Protection of philosophical exemptions for vaccine mandates; Protection of access to raw unpasteurized foods such as raw milk and dairy products and farm fresh products; Bills supporting the labeling of genetically modified foods; Bills that protect parent rights to decline vaccines and make medical choices including alternative health care for their children; and Support of states that oppose mandatory participation in federal health plans.

**Thank you to all SHFF supporters who make this project possible. The goal is freedom in all 50 states!!!**