The Legal and Political Rights of Transgender People

Hate Crimes and Hate Crime Laws
- Over the last two decades, more than one person a month on average has been reported to have been killed in the U.S. because of their perceived gender identity. Many more murders are not reported or are not classified as anti-transgender hate crimes.
- Only 15 states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington) and the District of Columbia include the category of gender identity or expression in hate crime laws.
- Thirteen states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington) and the District of Columbia currently have laws that ban harassment against students in public schools based on their gender identity or expression (more info. from GLSEN: www.glsen.org)

Anti-Discrimination Laws
- More than 150 municipalities protect the rights of trans people, from large metropolises (including New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Dallas, San Diego, Denver, Seattle, San Francisco, Atlanta, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh) to small cities (including New Hope, PA [population 2,252] and Huntington Woods, MI [population 6,151]).
- Only four states (Washington, California, New York, and Vermont) enable trans people to change the gender marker on birth certificates without proof of surgery. Twenty-four states amend but do not issue new birth certificates, which violates the privacy of trans people. Three other states (Ohio, Idaho, and Tennessee) will not change the gender marker on birth certificates under any circumstances.

Anti-Discrimination Policies
- Since 1996, more than 900 colleges and universities have added “gender identity/ expression” to their nondiscrimination policies, including the University of Massachusetts. (More info. from Campus Pride’s Trans Policy Clearinghouse: http://www.campuspride.org/tpc)
- More than 425 of the Fortune 1,000 corporations have added “gender identity/expression” to their nondiscrimination policies. (More info. from the Human Rights Campaign: http://www.hrc.org/topics/workplace)

Medical Care
- In 2014, Medicare eliminated a long-standing rule that transition-related surgeries can never be covered, regardless of medical need. Among states, only California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, and Vermont require coverage under Medicaid.
- Nine states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington) and the District of Columbia require health insurance providers to cover medical care related to gender transitioning for their residents.

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