MaskTogetherAmerica

#StopMaskBans

Take Action Together to Defend Our Human Right to Mask Protection.

Link to This Doc
bit.ly/StopMaskBans

Letter Campaign on Action Network
bit.ly/SaveMyRightToMask

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Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

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Intro



bit.ly/SaveMyRightToMask

MaskTogetherAmerica™

Mission Statement

See the following document for the full mission statement for this campaign!
StopMaskBans Mission Statement.docx

Background

Mask Bans are unfair, discriminatory, and a big violation of human rights. No one should have to defend their mask-wearing. Asking people to take off their masks or making them explain why they are wearing one is an invasion of privacy.

On June 27, North Carolina's mask ban bill (HB 237), was passed into law. See **recap**. On August 5, the New York Long Island Nassau County Legislature passed the Mask Transparency Act (142-24), and it was made into law on August 14. See **recap**. UC campuses now prohibit masking to conceal identity, indicated in an August 19 letter from UC President Michael V. Drake, MD. See **ACTIONS** created to stop mask bans on campuses.

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Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

On October 2, in Kentucky, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg announced plans for Louisville Metro Police to begin enforcing Ordinance 130.01 to ban masking. People who wear masks can be fined up to $100 or imprisoned for up to 50 days, or both.

Other cities and states where officials are promoting mask ban proposals include Philadelphia, Los Angeles,Chicago, New York City and State , Ocean City, New Jersey state, St. Louis, MO and Texas.

We need to stop mask bans, even if there are health exemptions. We need to wear masks to protect our health for many reasons. COVID-19 can rise at any time of the year, the CDC says. Besides preventing the spread of contagious pathogens, people also mask up for allergies, intolerance to chemicals or fragrances, and pollution, including the toxic air from wildfires.

Fear of arrest, jail time and hefty fines, people who wear masks for their health might be forced into social isolation. Fewer people masking will have a detrimental impact on infection control. A mask ban will also embolden businesses to deny service to maskers, including people with disabilities. Banning masks will increase discrimination! We need our government to normalize masking, instead of taking away our last bit of protection for our survival.

To combat mask bans, we should instead have laws that protect our right to wear PPE. Join us in this advocacy by using the hashtag below:

Save My Right To Mask (bit.ly/SaveMyRightToMask)

We need a law to protect our right to wear PPE. Lawmakers, look into the eyes of those who are wearing masks every day in transit, in healthcare facilities, in shops, at work and learn about their reasons why they wear PPE for themselves and their loved ones!

Disabled people have the right to be in public spaces and be around others. A mask ban in any form will embolden bullies to harass people who wear masks. It gives a healthcare worker more reasons not to mask up to protect their patients. A store might ban maskers from entry.

A mask ban is an act of discrimination against daily users who need protection from infection & pollution. A mask ban will harm public health and banish vulnerable people from public life. We need a law that stands for health justice—to safeguard our right to filter the air.

Let's all **ask** our elected officials to make public health a priority. Nobody should be banned from protecting their health. Rather than banning masks, they should prohibit mask bans!

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Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.



Shareable Materials

MASKING = LOVE! Take action to #StopMaskBans and #SaveMyRightToMask for Love NOW! Share a link to this toolkit https://bit.ly/StopMaskBans and some graphics/captions below to encourage others to take action.

ALT: #StopMaskBans in white is in the middle of a red heart against a white background. The “o” in “Stop” is shaped like a spike virus.

Language

Many people wear masks to protect themselves and their loved ones from infectious diseases. People with compromised immune systems or disabilities cannot survive without mask protection. Banning masks will abandon the vulnerable populations. Masking is community care. Banning masks will ban LOVE instead of hate. Let’s normalize masking. Mask Together America!
MaskTogetherAmerica started a letter campaign to fight the mask bans cropping up around the country. Read our mission statement and use our Action Toolkit to take action and stay informed.

Mission statement: bit.ly/StopMaskBans4LOVE
Letter campaign: bit.ly/SaveMyRightToMask
AAction Toolkit: bit.ly/StopMaskBans



ALT:

Attribute: *#StopMaskBans, created by MaskTogetherAmerica, using stock art from Vecteezy*

#StopMaskBans

Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

Left Image: #StopMaskBans in red is in the middle. The text below says Defend our human right to mask protection.
Right Image: #StopMaskBans in red is on the top. The text below says Action Toolkit and its link: bit.ly/StopMaskBans. And below that, Letter Campaign On Action Network and its link: bit.ly/3XLuhqG. Protect Each Other. MaskTogetherAmerica.

Growing list of press coverage on mask bans:
[#StopMaskBans] Press Coverage

Data on current levels of respiratory illnesses:
[#StopMaskBans] COVID Data

Actions by Region

Vermont



Info

Good news: A group of VT state senators have introduced S.81, a bill that would prohibit municipalities from banning masks. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Government Operations. Read the full bill here: https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/BILLS/S-0081/S-0081%20As%20Introduced.pdf, and track its status here: https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/vt/2025-2026/bills/VTB00010606/. Read news coverage here: https://bit.ly/VT_RightToMask

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Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

Action

1. In VT? Find your legislators and ask them to support this S.81, "An act relating to prohibiting municipal regulation of the use of hygienic face masks"! Find the right person to contact here: https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/
2. Not in VT? Share this news and toolkit with VT-based friends to encourage them to contact their legislators!
3. Support our posts on Instagram, Facebook, X, Threads and Bluesky.

Maryland

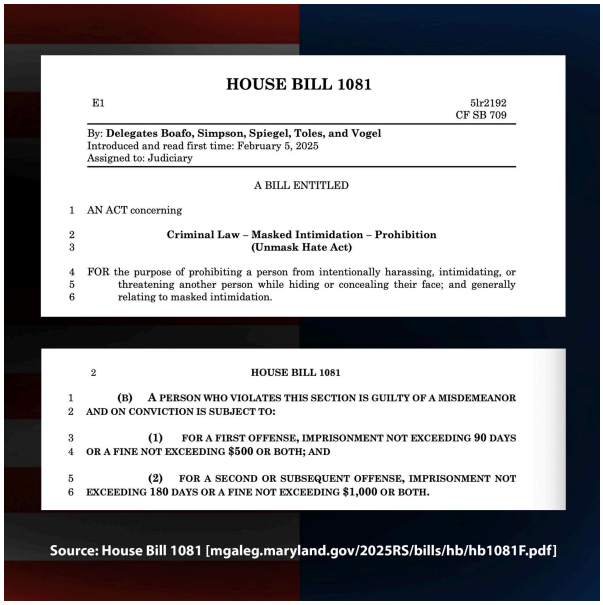
Info

Maryland state reps Boafo, Simpson, Spiegel, Toles, and Vogel have introduced HB 1081 (the "Unmask Hate Act," SB0709 in the Senate), banning masks for the purpose of "harassing" people or "intimidation." Of course, these concepts are subjective, so the enforcement of this ban would put medical mask-wearers in a vulnerable position. Full bill text: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1081F.pdf. More details: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0709. News coverage: https://archive.is/0gjvL

Action

1. In Maryland? Find your state rep and senator here: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/members/district. Tell your state rep to vote "no" on HB 1081, and tell your senator to vote "no" if and when the bill gets to the senate floor. Use this sample wording if you'd like!
2. Regardless of MD residence, follow and amplify these accounts that are organizing to stop the mask ban! https://www.instagram.com/maskblocdc/ and https://www.instagram.com/nomaskbanmd
3. More action items here: https://linktr.ee/FightMDMaskBans





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Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

Amplify our posts on X, Facebook, Instagram, Threads and Bluesky to invite more people to take action.

See posts from MEActMaryland, sharing our toolkit on Bluesky.

See posts from Mask Bloc DC, No MaskBanMD, Clean Air Solidarity, MaskUpBalt and CharmCityCleanAir on Instagram.

Illinois (Statewide)

Info (A bill that protects our right to mask!)

Good news: Illinois State Rep Hoan Huynh has filed HB3853, stating that "every individual has the right to wear protective medical equipment in any place of public accommodation where they have a lawful right to be without obligation to disclose health status or any other protected information, and no person, entity, or authority shall deny, restrict, or infringe upon this right. This should be law in every state! Read the full bill here: https://bit.ly/Illinois_HB3853. Check this website out as well to see why this bill is important: https://pmefa.org/

Update as of March 24, 2025, from Care Not Covid Chicago: Illinois had a chance to advance the nation's first right-to-mask legislation last week. While the original version of the Protective Medical Equipment Freedom Act did not have the votes to move forward out of Committee, we worked incredibly hard to draft amendments with stakeholders to get the votes necessary to call the bill. Despite these amendments and not hearing back from the Committee Chair Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz for several weeks, she informed us it was too late for amendments, even though the amendments were requested by members of her Committee.

Why? We don't know. What we do know is these amendments were approved by business associations as well as law enforcement groups, a difficult feat. We know that in just a few days, over 2700 proponent witness slips were filed—an avalanche of witness slips that is significant for a committee vote, proving overwhelming support. We know that members of our coalition, as well as the primary sponsor of HB3853, spent weeks trying to discuss the bill with Rep. Gong-Gershowitz, in advance of last week's scheduled hearing dates, with no response.

Although it feels we have been ignored and railroaded, we want to be clear we're not done. This bill is not dead. We wish we could tell you her motivations, but we know what our motivations are.

Action:

Updated actions as of March 24, 2025, courtesy of Care Not Covid Chicago:

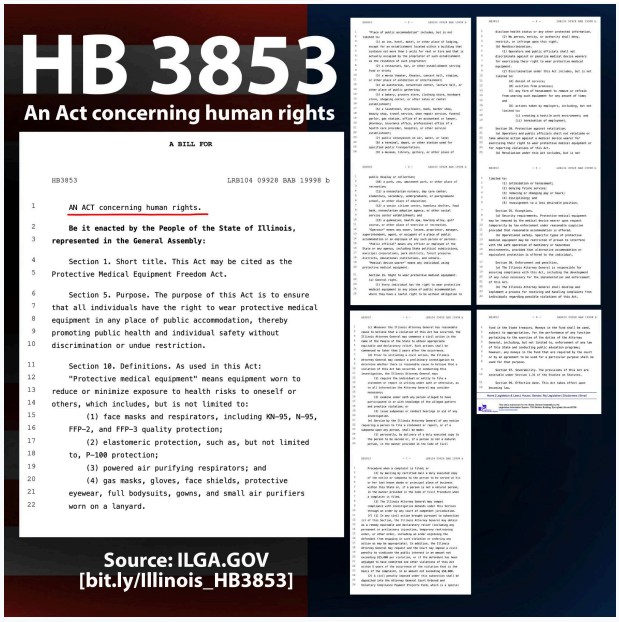
1. In Illinois? Make sure Rep. Gong-Gershowitz knows how you feel about this. Make sure she knows that this bill is important to you and should have been given an opportunity to move forward with our proposed amendments. Make sure she knows that not only is the entire disability population of Illinois watching her, but so is the entire disability population of the United States of America. Use this email address: info@gonggershowitz.com Don't know what to write? Here are some starting points:
   [#StopMaskBans] Talking Points for IL Rep. Gong-Gershowitz
2. Not in Illinois? We still need you to send emails to Rep. Gong-Gershowitz! You can say something about how while you may not live in Illinois, HB3853 has the potential to create a domino effect, which would help your own state pass something similar. In sort: **she's**

stopping a larger national movement around public health and disability rights. Additionally, amplify Megan Doherty's tweet thread on the topic.

3. The fact that we got this far is a testament not only to the incredible work of a strong, state-wide coalition of disability advocates, but to Rep. Huynh, who stepped up right away to be our chief sponsor, and who has worked tirelessly—sometimes until 1 AM—to make our position as strong as possible. None of this is on him. And we want to make sure he knows how much we appreciate him. So after you've told Rep. Gong-Gershowitz what you think of what she did, please take a moment to thank Rep. Huynh for his incredible support of, and advocacy for, disabled people in Illinois: hoan@rephoanhuynh.com.

Documentation of past actions: [#StopMaskBans] Past Actions for Illinois





Amplify these posts in X, Instagram, Facebook, Threads and Bluesky to spread awareness and invite more people to take action together.

Massachusetts

Info

Good news: we are encouraged that the MA state senate's President Pro Tempore, Will Brownsberger, has introduced S.1427, a bill to **prohibit municipal mask bans**, guaranteeing that local governments and health boards preserve the right to wear masks for "protective or medical use." Read the full bill text here: https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1427 (Senate), https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H1981 (House). We hope other states follow suit!

Action - MA Mask Rights Protection Act

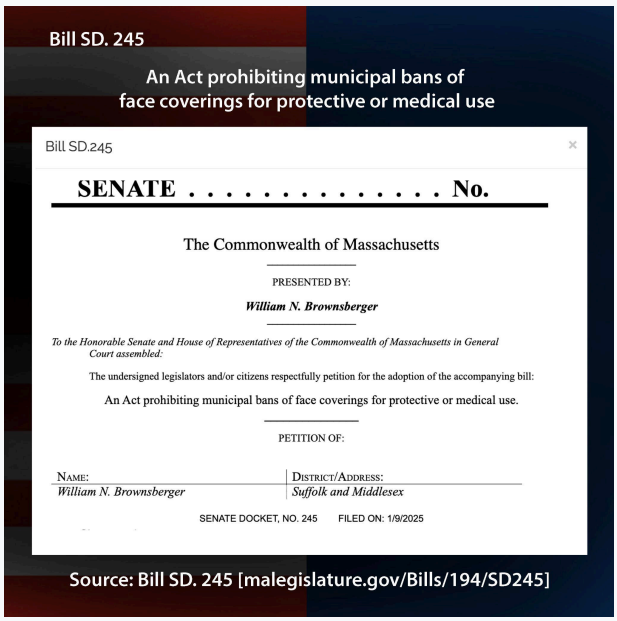
1. In MA?
    a. Find your state senator through this tool: https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator. Then, call/email them, encouraging them to support S.1427.

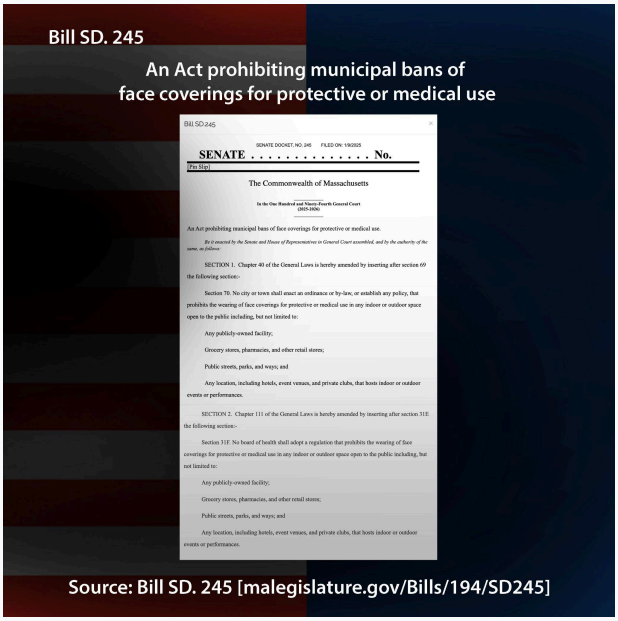
Attribute: *#StopMaskBans, created by MaskTogetherAmerica, using stock art from Vecteezy*

   b. Find your state representative through the same tool and call/email them, encouraging them to support H.1981.
2. Not in MA? Find your state senators and reps through your own state's .gov legislature site, and call/email them to ask them to propose a bill that is to the same effect as S.1427. Legislators are only obligated to listen to their constituents, so contacting your legislator will be more effective than contacting someone who does not represent your district.
3. Everyone, regardless of MA residence: amplify our posts on multiple platforms!
   a. Tweet 1: https://x.com/TogetherWeMask/status/1878241067536912454
   b. Tweet 2: https://x.com/TogetherWeMask/status/1878243160696009162
   c. Julie: https://x.com/MsJulieSLam/status/1878243977972842994
   d. Bluesky: https://bsky.app/profile/togetherwemask.bsky.social/post/3lfj26vwruc2t
   e. Julie: https://bsky.app/profile/msjulieslam.bsky.social/post/3lfj2bgslgk2x
   f. Threads: https://www.threads.net/@masktogetheramerica/post/DEtTCLDxlrF?xmt=AQGz7FpJ5cUTUoBhkE-l04DXpkwxybAay0zTSDiOLYbhgQ

Need help coming up with what to say to your legislator?

- See the first section of this post by Chloe Humbert for templates and tips: https://teamshuman.substack.com/p/2025-0111
- Use our letter template on Action Network.





Amplify these posts in X, Instagram, Facebook, Threads and Bluesky to spread awareness and invite more people to take action together.

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Utah

Info

Rep Karianne Lisonbee introduced H.B. 312, creating a criminal offense for the intentional concealment of identity in a public gathering. The exceptions are only Halloween activities or celebrations, masquerade parties, or “a similar activity or celebration”---not even medical or health exceptions. Link to full bill: https://le.utah.gov/~2025/bills/static/HB0312.html

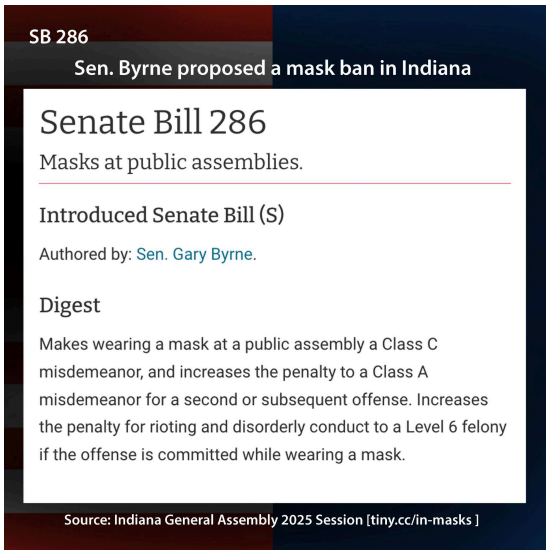
Action

If you live in Utah, find your rep here and contact them to oppose this bill!
https://le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp

Indiana

Info

Indiana State Senator Gary Byrne has introduced Senate Bill 286, which would ban mask-wearing in “public assemblies” (one of the highest-risk situations for viral transmission)! Read about the bill here:
https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2025/bills/senate/286/details



Alt: **Senate Bill 286** Masks at public assemblies. Introduced Senate Bill (S) Authored by: Sen. Gary Byrne.

“Makes wearing a mask at a public assembly a Class C misdemeanor, and increases the penalty to a Class A misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense. Increases the penalty for rioting and disorderly conduct to a Level 6 felony if the offense is committed while wearing a mask.”

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#St❄pMaskBans

Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

Action

1. If you live in Indiana, find your state senator here: https://iga.in.gov/information/find-legislators. Then, write to them and/or call them to urge them to oppose this SB 286! Some template language can be found in our letter template on Action Network: bit.ly/3XLuhqG
2. If you don't live in Indiana, share the above information with anyone you know who lives in Indiana, and encourage them to contact their legislators and oppose this bill.
3. Regardless of Indiana residence, amplify these posts to spread awareness and reach more people who can contact IN legislators in opposition! https://x.com/TogetherWeMask/status/1878965551185457360

   https://x.com/MsJulieSLam/status/1878966304083959844

   https://www.instagram.com/p/DE8UnisPxSx/

   https://www.facebook.com/masktogetheramerica/posts/pfbid0gDMrXW5HybMGxH4ddSb7NGfv9bUa7vxYhnrBnYVU9eWQKNMqwxJgFzVeoTZowyxXl

Texas

Info

Urgent Action: Anti-mask bill SB 2595 is scheduled to be discussed on the House floor this Sunday, May 25.

Texans, contact your House Representative TODAY!

Use this Advocacy Guide, complete with bill analysis, talking points, and phone/email scripts.

Share widely! Shortened link: tinyurl.com/StopSB2595

SB 2595 creates a new criminal offense for harassing, intimidating, or threatening another person while concealing their identity with a mask or other headgear.

Note: Anyone wearing a mask or sunglasses while attending or in proximity to an otherwise peaceful protest could be arrested and charged with a criminal offense if a bad actor is accused of harassment or being intimidating.

Awareness on X, Bluesky, Instagram, Facebook and Threads.

More about SB 2595, introduced by Sen. Mayes Middleton on 3/13/2025:
https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/SB2595/2025
https://legiscan.com/TX/text/SB2595/2025

SB 2595 proposes a new criminal offense for harassing, intimidating, or threatening another person while concealing their identity with a mask or other headgear. This bill has

been referred to the Criminal Justice Committee. The bill proposes a new section to the Penal Code, making it a crime to harass, intimidate, or threaten another person while using a mask or other headgear to conceal their identity. The bill includes specific defenses against prosecution, such as using a mask for celebratory purposes, ensuring physical safety in a profession, or protection from weather, or to protect a person's health or ensure that the person does not spread illness.

Action

1. **Call/email your House Representative—Tell them that SB 2595 is a ball bill and to vocally oppose it on the floor!**
    a. **Share link: tinyurl.com/stopsb2595**
2. In TX but outside of the aforementioned districts? Contact the TX legislator that represents you, using similar talking points as the above toolkit, urging them to (a) oppose HB 3061, SB 2595, and SB 2876 and (b) introduce right-to-mask legislation (like MA SD.245).
3. Not in TX? Don't contact reps that don't represent you, but do share this info with friends who live in TX to encourage them to act!
4. Watch this page to find out about Texas-specific actions against mask bans!
5. Engage with our awareness campaign on X, Bluesky, Facebook, Instagram and Threads, also see Julie's tweets on X and Bluesky.
6. Follow Chuck @whatexactlyisupchuck on Instagram for TX-specific updates!
7. If you are on Instagram, follow ClearTheAir.ATX —POSTED on April 12 to urge people to testify and email senators.
8. Follow Becky Ancira Robertson who volunteered to help raise awareness on X, Bluesky, Instagram, Facebook and Threads.
9. (Past) Follow the HOW TO DROP A CARD: STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE from TX Appleseed.
10. **Share our posts** on X, Bluesky, Facebook, Instagram and Threads featuring Amy White and Lindsey Carmichael.
    a. Amy White: Instagram, Facebook
    b. Lindsey Carmichael: Instagram, Facebook Video on Instagram, Facebook.
11. (Past) The Senate Committee on State Affairs held a hearing with public comment on Monday, Apr 14 for SB 2876 and SB 2595.
    Watch testimonies: https://senate.texas.gov/videoplayer.php?vid=21759&lang=en
    (Starting from 13:36 for everyone, and see Lindsey Carmichael at 22:33)
12. (Past) Write to the members of the hearing committee who are in your district to express your opposition to the bills.
    Email and Call TX Senate of State Affairs Committee - Anti Mask Laws
    a. If you live near the TX Capitol, follow these instructions to drop a card on Monday in opposition to the bills:
    [#StopMaskBans] TX Hearing Card Instructions
13. (Past) In TX, within the district of one of the legislators who introduced these bills? Use this toolkit to call/write their offices to pressure them to withdraw the bill:
    FIGHT THE TX MASK BAN

#StopMaskBans

Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

"Instead of catching criminals and punishing them for their crimes, these bills focus on the masks that lots of people wear for health & safety protection. These bills want to create a perception that masks are intimidating when they are not, and should be normalized!" https://x.com/TogetherWeMask/status/1911952158599020608

About Defeated Anti-Mask Bills from the 89th Texas Legislative Session:

Defeated and presumed defeated bills:

1. (Unlikely to meet the May 24 deadline) SB 2876 increases criminal penalties for participating in a riot while wearing a mask or other face covering.
2. (Defeated) HB 3061 enhances penalties for criminal offenses committed while disguised or masked.



TX Mask Bills Toolkit:
https://sordid-accordion-7ef.notion.site/TX-H-B-No-3061-Toolkit-1d9a43096ecb805a897ef0a68398369e

Oppose HB 3061 Toolkit:
https://bit.ly/NO_To_HB3061

More about SB 2876, introduced by Sen. Bryan Hughes on 3/14/2025:
https://legiscan.com/TX/bill/SB2876/2025
https://legiscan.com/TX/text/SB2876/2025

SB 2876 proposes to increase the criminal penalty for participating in a riot while wearing a mask or other face covering, classifying it as a Class A misdemeanor if the intent is to conceal identity. The bill also clarifies that offenses committed during a riot can be

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classified at the same level as other higher-grade offenses committed by other participants.

More about HB 3061, introduced by Rep. Tom Oliverson on 2/19/2025:

HB 3061 increases the punishment for someone who commits a crime if they commit the crime while masked. Part of the bill reads as follows: "At the punishment stage of a trial in which the attorney representing the state seeks the increase in punishment authorized by this section, the defendant may raise the issue as to whether the purpose of wearing the disguise or mask was for Halloween, a masquerade ball, or a similar celebration." This sentence contains no mention of the medical need to wear a mask and implies that the defendant has to go all the way through trial (and jail time before the trial) before even having a chance to justify themselves, which no one should be forced to do in the first place. As with all mask ban bills, enforcement of the bill depends on biased perceptions of who is a "threat" or intends to commit a crime; it also stigmatizes masks in general, discouraging the use of a crucial public health tool. Stigmatizing masks for any reason also fuels violence and harassment against people wearing masks, not just from people in charge of actually enforcing the law. Full bill text: https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB03061I.pdf

This bill enhances the punishment for committing certain criminal offenses while masked, not just serious crimes like robbery, burglary, or arson but also subjective disorderly conduct, or participation in a riot (e.g. assemblage of 7 or more persons or obstructing law enforcement or governmental functions or services), as in Title 9, Sec 42. HB3061 can put a masker in prison for 180 days if arrested for simply using indecent language/gestures, or making unreasonable noise in public, incl. school campuses.

See documentation here of our past coverage on this topic:
[StopMaskBans] Past Actions for Texas

St. Louis, Missouri

Info

🚨 **St. Louis' Board Bill 2** criminalizes wearing a medical mask, hood or face covering in public or while breaking another law. A mask ban hearing was scheduled on 10/3, but it was canceled at the last minute. See Posts from Mask Bloc St. Louis, as well as our post on X, a post from **@MsJulieSLam** on **X,** and a KMOV news report annotation here:
[#StopMaskBans] STL Post

Action

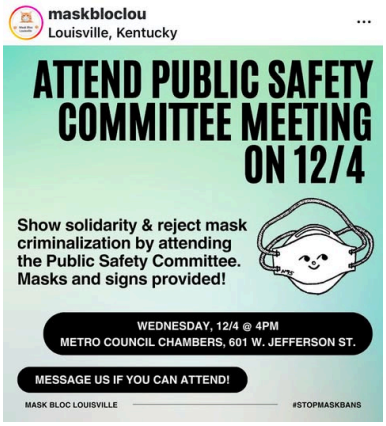
1. Write to Alderwomen keysl@stlouis-mo.gov and clarkhubbard@stlouis-mo.gov. See Mask Bloc St Louis' testimony example: bit.ly/testifyagainstbb2, as well as their complete toolkit: bit.ly/fightmaskban
2. Share our posts about STL Mask Ban on **Instagram, Facebook, Threads** and **X.**

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Louisville, Kentucky



Info

🚨On October 2 in Kentucky, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg announced plans for Louisville Metro Police to begin enforcing Ordinance 130.01 (signed into law in 1983) to ban masking. People who wear masks can be fined up to $100 or imprisoned for up to 50 days, or both. The existing list of exemptions do not include people who wear masks in public to defend against COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

"Louisville is enacting a mask ban to prevent crime. Many feel this is a civil rights issue aimed at peaceful protestors but in actuality it is a serious public health issue. As of now, an exemption for health issues is not present. Needless to say, the theme of Risky Behavior, Violence, and Spreading the virus is being played out here (our Zombie Apocalypse Metaphor)." Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, founder of Health Watch USA, strongly opposes mask banning that would greatly undermine infection control, as pathogens like COVID-19 spreads year-round.

See posts: X, Threads, Facebook and Instagram

Action

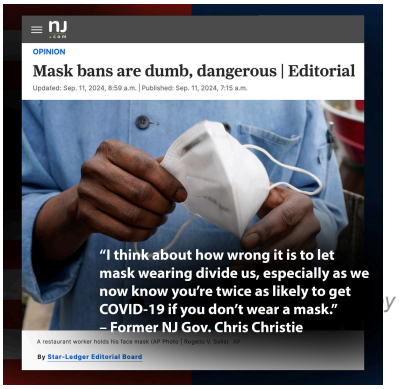
1. **Go to Mask Bloc Louisville's toolkit at tinyurl.com/fightloumaskban to take action (updated as of 11/7).** You can choose to use their toolkit to email/call the council in opposition to the mask ban by December 4th at 4pm. Public comment form at tinyurl.com/maskbancomment. See post.

2. Join (masked) the Special Public Safety Meeting on **Wednesday, December 4th at 4pm** at City Hall (601 W. Jefferson St.). DM @maskbloclou on Instagram if you can attend!

3. Engage with this updated post!

   Share Julie Lam's post on X.

New Jersey



Info

🚨New Jersey Senator Jon Bramnick introduced bills S3578 and A4804 on September 12th to ban masks at public gatherings in NJ, even as COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to rise.

y MaskTogetherAmerica, using stock art from Vecteezy

#StopMaskBans

Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

News:
Star-Ledger's editorial, "Mask Bans Are Dumb, Dangerous."
See posts on Instagram, Facebook, Threads and X.

"The bill met with strong pushback and is headed for a rewrite." *NJ Spotlight News* reports.

Action

1. Sign the petition by Adam Reich (@ReichNow on X), saying no to NJ mask bans and to bills S3578/A4804: https://bit.ly/NoMaskBanNJ
2. Share Reich's posts on Instagram, Facebook, Threads and X.
3. New Jersey residents: reach out to your State Senator and Assembly Members and tell them to vote "no" on these harmful bills.
4. Not from New Jersey? You can still help by contacting Senator Bramnick's and Assemblywoman Matsikoudis' offices to explain how these bills would make it difficult for you to visit the Garden State.

Nassau County, Long Island, New York

Info

On July 11, NBC NewYork reported that the Nassau County legislature proposed an anti-mask law on Long Island, which could mean jail time and $1,000 fines for wearing a mask! This mask ban was initiated by Legislator Mazi Pilip. Mask bans, even with health exemptions, violate human and disability rights.



On July 15, the 7-member Public Safety Committee of the Nassau County Legislature approved the mask ban bill, with 4 yes votes and 3 abstaining.

Watch the hearing: https://bit.ly/NYMaskBan

On August 5, the full 19-member County Legislature voted, with 12-0 (7 abstentions) and passed the Mask Transparency Act. Democratic Legislators, New Yorkers who need mask protection for health and public health and human right advocates shared powerful testimonies to oppose the ban but their concerns were dismissed by Republican legislators.

On Aug 14, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman signed the Mask Ban into local law, making it a crime to wear a mask in public and private spaces.

Disabled People sued Nassau County! Anumita Kaur from the Washington Post reported on the lawsuit filed by DRNY.org. But the lawsuit was dismissed by a federal judge on September 25. (APNews)

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#St❄pMaskBans

Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

See this document for more documentation on actions and responses to this proposed ban: [#StopMaskBans] Past Actions For Nassau County

Action

1. Sign the open letter by Jews for Mask Rights: https://www.jewsformaskrights.com/jews-for-mask-rights-open-letter
2. If you are a healthcare worker, please sign this petition: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeilPKja0YCiuBKvlCNapG2L2-SVDL6HL1kn_J_sUgarrTtHA/viewform
3. Support NYCLU's letter campaign against NY mask bans: https://action.aclu.org/send-message/say-no-mask-bans-new-york
    a. Live in New York? Know your rights to wear a mask! Read this article by NYCLU: https://www.nyclu.org/resources/know-your-rights/your-rights-to-wear-a-mask-in-public-in-nassau-county
4. Live in Long Island or Eastern Queens? Take this health survey from Long Island Health Collaborative, indicating that masks are an important medical tool for you! https://surveymonkey.com/r/CMLICHAS. See post for more info.
5. **Call** Irina Gelman, D.P.M., PhD., Commissioner of Health, Nassau County Health Dept, to tell them to stop the Nassau Mask Ban. Phone: 516-227-9697.
6. Share these posts from Instagram, Facebook, X and Threads, urging The Nassau County Medical Society (NCMS) and Nassau Academy of Medicine (NAM) to Stop Mask Bans as COVID spreads year-round. A mask ban will undermine infection control!
7. Use COVID Advocacy NY's resources: http://covidadvocacyny.org/nassau and bit.ly/StopMaskBanNY
8. Go to https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/contactus and call members of the county government to ask them to say **NO** to the Mask Transparency Act!
    a. District map: https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/503/District-Map
    b. Specific legislators to contact (🔹 denotes particularly hopeful votes)
    c. Scott Davis: (D: 1, Village of Rockville Centre and a majority of the Village of Hempstead.) SDavis@nassaucountyny.gov
    d. 🔹 Siela A. Bynoe: (D: 2, Hempstead, Hicksville, Lakeview, Malverne, New Cassel, Rockville Centre, Uniondale, Westbury, and West Hempstead.) @sielaforsenate, sbynoe@nassaucountyny.gov
    e. 🔹 Carrié Solages: (D: 3, Elmont, Valley Stream, South Floral Park Inwood and portions of Lawrence & N. Woodmere) @carriesolages, https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld03/contact.php
    f. Patrick Mullaney: (D: 4), https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld04/contact.php
    g. 🔹 Seth Koslow: (D: 5, Most of Freeport and Merrick as well as portions of North Merrick and North Bellmore.) @sethkoslowforlegislator, https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld05/contact.php
    h. 🔹 Debra Mule: (D: 6 Baldwin, Roosevelt and South Hempstead and portions of Freeport and Oceanside) @legislatordebram, dmule@nassaucountyny.gov

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i. Howard J. Kopel (D: 7, Cedarhurst, Woodmere, Hewlett, Lawrence, Valley Stream and Inwood.), https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld07/contact.php
j. John J. Giuffrè (D: 8), https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld08/contact.php
k. Scott Strauss (D: 9, Vice President of Corporate Security for Northwell Health. Former mayor of Mineola), https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld09/contact.php
l. Mazi Melesa Pilip (D: 10, Great Neck, Manhasset, New Hyde Park, Roslyn and Plandome.), Ph: 516-571-6210
m. 🔹 Delia Deriggi-Whitton (D: 11, Sands Point, Port Washington, Roslyn, Roslyn Harbor, Glen Head, Glenwood, Sea Cliff and Glen Cove.) @deliaderiggiwhitton, https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld11/contact.php
n. Michael Giangregorio (D: 12, Wantagh, Bellmore, Seaford, North Wantagh, North Bellmore and parts of Merrick and North Merrick.) @leg_giangregorio, https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld12/contact.php
o. Thomas McKevitt (D: 13), https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld13/contact.php
p. C. William Gaylor III (D: 14, Lynbrook, Malverne, North Lynbrook, East Rockaway, West Hempstead, Lakeview, and parts of Valley Stream and Oceanside.) @legislatorbill_, https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld14/contact.php
q. John R. Ferretti Jr. (D: 15, Levittown, Farmingdale, South Farmingdale, North Massapequa, Wantagh, Bethpage and Seaford.) @ferrettijr.john, https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld15/contact.php
r. 🔹 Arnold W. Drucker (D: 16, Plainview, Old Bethpage, Jericho, Syosset, Woodbury, Hicksville, Old Westbury, and Roslyn Heights.) (516) 571-6216, or ADrucker@nassaucountyny.gov), https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld16/contact.php
s. 🔹 Rose Marie Walker (D: 17, Hicksville, Massapequa, Bethpage, Farmingdale, Seaford, Wantagh and portions of Old Bethpage. Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee, Vice Chair of the Minority Affairs Committee and as a member of the Veterans and Senior Affairs Committee), **@rosewalker_17**, https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld17/contact.php
t. Samantha Goetz (D: 18), @goetzfornassau, https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld18/contact.php
u. James Kennedy (D: 19, most of the Massapequas and parts of Seaford), https://forms.nassaucountyny.gov/contact/agencies/ld19/contact.php
v. Look up more legislators in this directory: https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/504/Legislators

9. Share our posts to spread awareness! July 14: Instagram, Facebook, X and Threads. July 15: Instagram, Facebook, X and Threads. July 16: Dr. Angelique Corthals, medical advisor of MaskTogetherAmerica testified at the Legislative Meeting. View on X, threads, Facebook, Instagram.

#StopMaskBans

Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

North Carolina

Info

The anti-mask bill in North Carolina says people can wear a mask to prevent the spread of disease, but it excludes prevention as a reason. Anyone can be forced to remove their mask if asked by law enforcement or the owner/occupant of public or private property. Taking off our masks, even for a short time, could lead to more infections. It's not clear who the "occupant of public or private property" is, and since the NC legislature won't define it, it could mean anyone.

This bill will increase anti-mask harassment, lead to more infections, and create profiling by law enforcement. It's unacceptable!

See this recent North Carolina news story about how this bill has already been used by anti-mask people to harass a cancer patient:

https://www.wral.com/story/scared-to-put-on-my-mask-cancer-patient-says-she-was-intentionally-coughed-on-in-spat-over-mask/21478890/

On June 27, North Carolina moved forward with the anti-mask bill. The House overrode three vetoes from Governor Cooper, including a bill restricting public mask-wearing, ABC-11 reports.

With a summer surge upon us, Victoria Coble @Victoriacoble15, founder of @CovidActionGSO will continue to wear a mask to protect each other from illness. On July 2, we posted her advice on X, Threads, Instagram and Facebook.

A mask ban increases the spread of disease and puts everyone at risk. In North Carolina, according to NCDHHS, 1 in 6 North Carolinians have Long COVID. With a population of over 10 million people, that means about 1.6 million people in the state have Long COVID.

Action

1. Call and email North Carolina House Representatives to oppose amendment to HB 237 (Unmasking Mobs and Criminals Bill) and reject the criminalization of masking.
2. Action Kit: https://bit.ly/4bQ9CGh
3. Share and sign Petition from @coble.victoria @covid_action_gso | https://chng.it/F9pXDTqmCb
4. Support @trianglemaskbloc
5. Contact NC legislators to tell them not to try to override the governor's veto. Take action with North Carolina Megaphone Link: https://www.ncmegaphone.com/ Send emails to all of them automatically!
6. Share our Instagram posts: May 17 (Founder Julie Lam promotes Victoria Coble's Stop Mask Ban petition), May 19 (We feature Victoria Coble), May 20 (We collaborate with Triangle Mask Bloc), May 24 (We share Reports from WFMY News 2), June 7 (We Call on national support), June 12 (We share Reports from North Carolina News WNCN TV), June 25 (Vulnerable patients shouldn't feel scared to put on a mask but that's the reality in North Carolina, Carly Haynes WRAL reports).

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Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

New York

Info

Governor Kathy Hochul last-minutely proposed a mask ban in talks about the state budget for this year (2025).

1st Article: Gov. Hochul is pushing a last-minute mask ban in state budget talks - Gothamist

2nd Article: **https://bit.ly/Gothamist_NY_MaskPolicy (April 28)**

James Skoufis (D) 42nd Senate District introduced Senate Bill S3070 during the 2025-2026 Legislative Session— a mask ban in a form of AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to the crime of "masked harassment and aggravated harassment."

Additionally, the New York State Assembly bill A3133 was introduced by Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz. His Anti-Mask Bill (A3133/S3070, introduced by James Skoufis) allows people to wear masks to protect their health, but only during a Declared Public Health Emergency! See here for a mayoral forum where several constituents challenged the mask ban (around 1:19:30), and see here for some press coverage of the forum.

Before this, Senator Steven D. Rhoads proposed Bill S9194 against 'Deceptive wearing of a mask.' This anti-mask bill S9194 (the same as A10043) requires people to get permission from authorities just to wear a mask. This would give law enforcement too much power to harass and arrest people wearing masks in public. People with medical conditions or their family members/coworkers shouldn't have to get approval to use a lifesaving tool.

In a Dec 9th in-person media event, **Mayor Adams** received the following question: "*About the mask ban, I know that the governor has also been talking about pushing for a ban. Maybe in some ways you've talked about. Would you go to some kind of legal, [inaudible] something you present for City Council?*"

Mayor Adams responded: "*I think it's a combination from our preliminary review is a combination from the City Council and a combination from the state. We had a ban in place and it was removed after COVID. I think we need to re-examine having that put back in place. And I know the governor has voiced some interest in it. And I think that what we saw here, it is... maybe this would give the wind in the sail to bring this home. One thing is clear that, you know, thank God, this person didn't go out and harm other individuals. The longer he stayed on the streets, the more dangerous it could have been.*"

This is wrong! People wear masks for many reasons, including pollution, allergies, wildfires, flu, COVID, common colds, and other contagious respiratory diseases, as well as intolerances to chemicals and fragrances, all year round.

MaskTogetherAmerica,along with other Long Haulers from across the U.S., a mostly immunocompromised group, demonstrated at the Long Covid Awareness Demonstration in D.C. on March 15. Organizers, concerned for everyone's safety, required masking.

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#StopMaskBans

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“The right of the people to peaceably assemble” is in the Constitution's First Amendment. No one should be harassed or arrested for wearing a mask. No one should need permission to wear a mask!

Action

1. Write to elected officials on Action Network: bit.ly/SaveMyRightToMask Tell them why you need mask protection. Personalize your letter! All mask bans promote discrimination against people who wear masks, especially those with medical conditions, disabilities, or compromised immune systems! We need to protect our right to mask up against infection and pollution.
2. **New Yorkers:**
    a. Call your state senator and assembly member to oppose NY Anti-Mask Bills: A3133/ S3070, S9867/A10057 and S9194/A10043.
    Find your senator: https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator
    Find your assembly member: https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/
    b. Call and write to Governor Kathy Hochul ((518) 474-8390)
    c. See here for a sample letter that MaskTogetherAmerica founder Julie Lam wrote to Gov. Hochul if you need inspiration:
    [#StopMaskBans] Governor Hochul.docx
    d. **Sign up for an account on** NYSenate.gov. Oppose A3133/ S3070, S9867/A10057 and S9194/A10043 with the steps outlined here:
    [#StopMaskBans] Instructions for Opposing Bills on NYSenate Website
    e. Call or write to NY Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (212) 298-5585
    f. Call or write to NY Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie Speaker@nyassembly.gov (718) 654-6539
    g. Call or write to NYC Mayor Eric Adams.
    h. Call or write to Senators for NY: Kirsten Gillibrand Chuck Schumer
3. Use the scripts provided by Jews for Mask Rights: https://www.jewsformaskrights.com/resources/mask-ban-call-script
4. Use the toolkit by **COVID Advocacy NY**: https://covidadvocacyny.org/stopmaskbanny
5. Social media amplification of actions, regardless of NY residency:
    a. Follow MsJulieSLam on X, and amplify her post showing the high CO2 levels and opposing the mask ban on all platforms (X, Facebook, BlueSky, Instagram, Threads)!
    b. Follow Myra Batchelder, Peter Sterne, and Dr. Lucky Tran (X, Instagram, Threads) for updates on NY-based actions you can take.
    c. Share posts: June 14 (Founder Julie Lam writes to Gov Hochul), June 14 (collaboration with Your Friendly Epidemiologist), June 15 (Dr. Angelique Corthals shares her letter to Gov. Hochul), June 16 (We feature NY cartoonist Hazel Newlevant), June 20 (Facebook Community Discussion on NY Subway Mask Ban), June 20 (post in Still Coviding, NYC edition), June 21 (We feature Lemon Harmony on Facebook), June 22 (Julie talks about the need to stop mask bans in Conversation with Natalie Bencivenga), June 23 (We feature Michal, a co-writer of the JewsForMaskRights petition), June 27 (NY Bill on X, Threads).

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6. Not in New York state? Write to NY's Tourism Board via email at info@iloveny.com, as Edward Garza has done, or message @iloveny on Instagram. Tell them that you won't be traveling to NY State or are canceling your travel plans to NY State due to the proposed anti-mask bills S9867/A10057 and S9194/A10043.

Chicago

Info

On May 22, 2024, Democratic ALDERMAN RAYMOND LOPEZ of Chicago's 15th Ward, who was pro-mask in 2020, submitted a proposal to increase penalties on any protesters arrested while wearing a mask. We must oppose his Proposed Ordinance Introduced to Chicago's City Council.

Action

1. See Action Kit provided by Clean Air Club founded by Emily Dupee : Scripts and info for pushing back on Lopez's proposed amendment
2. See Action Kit provided by Care Not COVID Chicago
3. Contact the Chair of the Committee on Public Safety, Alderman Hopkins, and demand he does not put Ald. Lopez's proposed anti-mask ordinance on the Committee's agenda. Hopkins has the final say on whether the anti-mask proposal advances to the Committee. Email **office@aldermanhopkins.com** or phone: (312) 643-2299.

Los Angeles

Info

LA faces proposed bans both at the city level and at the university campus level (at UCLA). At the city level, Mayor Bass has expressed a desire to restrict mask-wearing at protests. Story: https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-06-25/masks-restriction-protests-after-violent-protest-los-angeles-synagogue. At UCLA, the rules for public comment at UC Regents meetings prohibit in-person meeting participants from wearing anything other than minimally protective transparent masks provided at the door. This silences the voices of disabled and immunocompromised students, especially since recent meetings were about supporting disabled students!
Details on our recent action for LA: [#StopMaskBans] LA Action

Action

1. UCLA students, alumni, staff, faculty, and other affiliates: write/call the UC Regents leadership and UCLA leadership to urge them to remove restrictions on masks at Regents meetings. You can pledge to withhold donations to the school until the restrictions are removed.
2. Angelenos, call the Mayor's office and LA City Council members to speak out against the proposed ban.
3. If you live outside of L.A, please contact the L..A. Tourism Board and say you won't visit Los Angeles if there are mask bans in any capacity.

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4. Follow MaskTogetherAmerica advisor Paul Hennessy (Twitter: @we_are_ssd, TikTok: @paulypandemic), UCLA's Disabled Student Union and amplify related posts: Facebook, Instagram, another one on Instagram, X and Threads.
5. Use the Action Kit: **bit.ly/StopMaskBansInLA**
6. Support @theacecoalition petition: Tell LA Mayor Bass and County Supervisors: Mask Banning is disability injustice, discrimination and a violation of human rights. Fight for our right to prevent sickness. Sign here: **https://bit.ly/4bjMMWk**

Virginia

Info

Virginia has had restrictions on mask-wearing in certain settings since 1950. Under Code of Virginia § 18.2-422 (https://law.justia.com/codes/virginia/title-18-2/chapter-9/section-18-2-422/), it is illegal for "*any person over 16 years of age to, with the intent to conceal his identity, wear any mask, hood or other device whereby a substantial portion of the face is hidden or covered so as to conceal the identity of the wearer, to be or appear in any public place, or upon any private property in this Commonwealth without first having obtained from the owner or tenant thereof consent to do so in writing*." While the statute does provide exceptions for state-declared public health emergencies and has some language about an exception for people with medical documentation of a need to mask, this is not enough because (a) even though COVID is still surging, officials have ended the declaration of emergency, and (b) everyone is at risk for organ damage from COVID; medical documentation is unnecessary, unreasonable, and inaccessible for many people. Virginia places mask-wearing as a Class 6 felony, which is punishable by 1-5 years in prison and/or a $2500 fine (https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter1/section18.2-10/). This punishes everyone who cares about their health!

Action

1. Do you live in VA? Contact your state senator and state rep (find them at https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/), asking them to repeal mask bans and protect the right to mask!
2. Support VA-based mask blocs like Mask Bloc NoVA and Mask Bloc RVA.

Victoria, Australia

Info

MPs in the state of Victoria, Australia have introduced a bill to ban masks at protests. Story here: Victoria to ban face masks and certain flags at protests in response to antisemitic attacks | SBS News. More coverage here: Victoria Police to be given broader powers to remove masks in protest clampdown - ABC News. Although the ban seems to only be about protests and not about general medical masks, there is precedent for forced mask removal under public order legislation, and enforcement of mask bans is likely to be subjective and discriminatory. Police in Australia also have a history of mistreating disabled people.

Action

1. If you live in Victoria, Australia, use this template to write your MPs to oppose the mask ban bill: Covid Action Aus Mask Ban Action: Email Template

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2. Regardless of whether you live in Victoria, follow COVID Action AUS on Instagram for more updates on actions to take, and amplify their calls to action.

#StopMaskBans

Protect Each Other MaskTogetherAmerica

Documentation of our work

#StopMaskBans is a national awareness campaign created by MaskTogetherAmerica to help advocates and organizations in the U.S. fight for the right to wear masks. We apologize for any confusion, as we are working in real time to share our efforts and invite you to join us—by reading and sharing our posts. We need your support to raise awareness so more people will take action.

June 19 The history of the Flu Pandemic
June 21 The US Summer Surge
June 24 Harvard Poll shows Mask policies were welcomed by majority Americans.
June 24 We Protest in masks
June 25 A patient with Cancer was harassed by Anti-Masker
June 25 Launch Letter Campaign on X, Threads, Facebook and Instagram
June 27 A Survey on Discrimination by Jessica Wildfire X, Threads, Facebook and Instagram
July 1 CBS News Report on rising COVID X, Threads, Facebook and Instagram



July 8 Call CDC to speak out to Stop Mask Bans, and to put in place better guidance and advocate for policies and programs that protect everyone! Join event: bit.ly/CDCDay
(Promotion on July 2 X, Threads, Facebook and Instagram)
July 10 Share Violet Affleck's inspiring testimony to LA County Board of Supervisors, in which she criticized mask bans and demanded for mask, test & treatment availability, mask mandates in hospitals, and clean air in all government buildings, including jails and detention centers.
(X, Threads, Facebook and Instagram) Please support our actions: X1, X2.
July 11 Feature Serita and Bri'anna from Act Up NY to raise awareness about the detrimental impact of Mask Bans. (X, Threads, Facebook and Instagram)

Attribute: *#StopMaskBans, created by MaskTogetherAmerica, using stock art from Vecteezy*

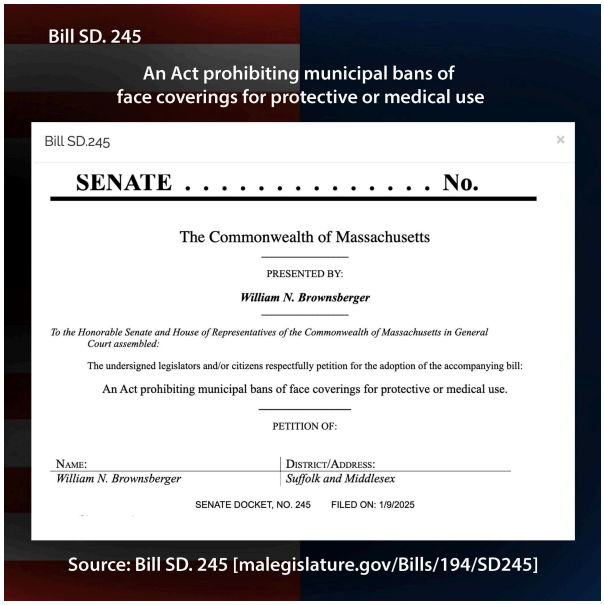
#StopMaskBans

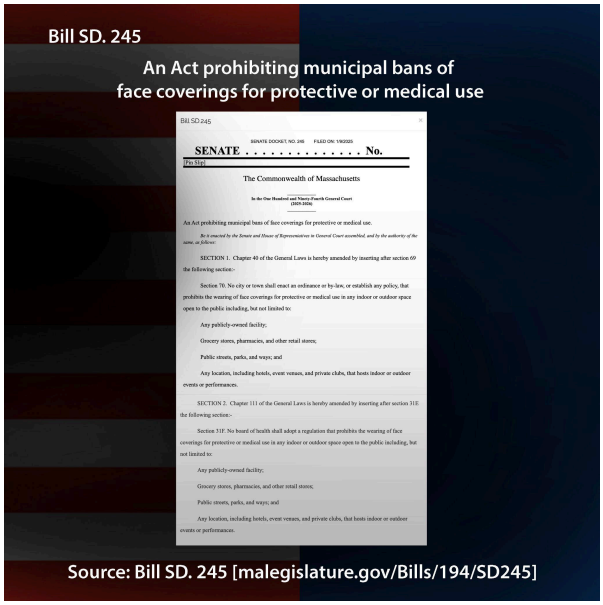
Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

Support Mask Advocates and Pro-Mask Organizations!

(Please email masktogetheramerica@gmail.com your actions so we can include them in this tool kit. Thank you.)

- People's CDC
- ActUpNY June 27
- Dr. Jerome Adam
- Long COVID Justice See the resource LIST and their Instagram post.
- Beatrice Adler-Bolton @realLandsEnd (ADA)
- Long Covid Families tweeted a statement.
- DREDF and Disability Rights California opposing mask bans! (statement)
- World Health Network @whn.global is hosting a recurring phone banking event on Fridays at 3:00PM EST.
- COVID Advocacy NY: see the Action Toolkit. at https://covidadvocacyny.org/stopmaskbanny.
- Jews for Mask Rights: sign the open letter against mask bans at https://www.jewsformaskrights.com/jews-for-mask-rights-open-letter.
- NYCLU: sign the letter against mask bans in NY at https://action.aclu.org/send-message/say-no-mask-bans-new-york.





MA Mask Rights Protection Act

We are encouraged that MA Sen. Brownsberger proposed SD.245, a law prohibiting mask bans, guaranteeing that municipalities and health boards preserve the right to mask for "protective or medical use"! Urge your MA state senator to support SD.245. We hope other states follow suit!

See our posts on multiple platforms:

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#StopMaskBans

Take Action Together to defend our human right to mask protection.

Tweet 1: https://x.com/TogetherWeMask/status/1878241067536912454
Tweet 2: https://x.com/TogetherWeMask/status/1878243160696009162
Julie: https://x.com/MsJulieSLam/status/1878243977972842994
Bluesky: https://bsky.app/profile/togetherwemask.bsky.social/post/3lfj26vwruc2t
Julie: https://bsky.app/profile/msjulieslam.bsky.social/post/3lfj2bgslgk2x
Threads:
https://www.threads.net/@masktogetheramerica/post/DEtTCLDxlrF?xmt=AQGz7FpJ5cUTUoBhkE-l04DXpkwxybAay0zTSDiOLYbhgQ

Bill SD.245

An act prohibiting municipal bans of face coverings for protective or medical use
Source: https://bit.ly/3ChDazY

SECTION 1. Chapter 40 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 69 the following section:-
Section 70. No city or town shall enact an ordinance or by-law, or establish any policy, that prohibits the wearing of face coverings for protective or medical use in any indoor or outdoor space open to the public including, but not limited to: Any publicly-owned facility; Grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail stores;
Public streets, parks, and ways; and Any location, including hotels, event venues, and private clubs, that hosts indoor or outdoor events or performances.

SECTION 2. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 31E the following section:-
Section 31F. No board of health shall adopt a regulation that prohibits the wearing of face coverings for protective or medical use in any indoor or outdoor space open to the public including, but not limited to: Any publicly-owned facility; Grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail stores; Public streets, parks, and ways; and Any location, including hotels, event venues, and private clubs, that hosts indoor or outdoor events or performances.

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