

# Wisconsin Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Conference



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# State Policy Updates



**Rodd Monts**

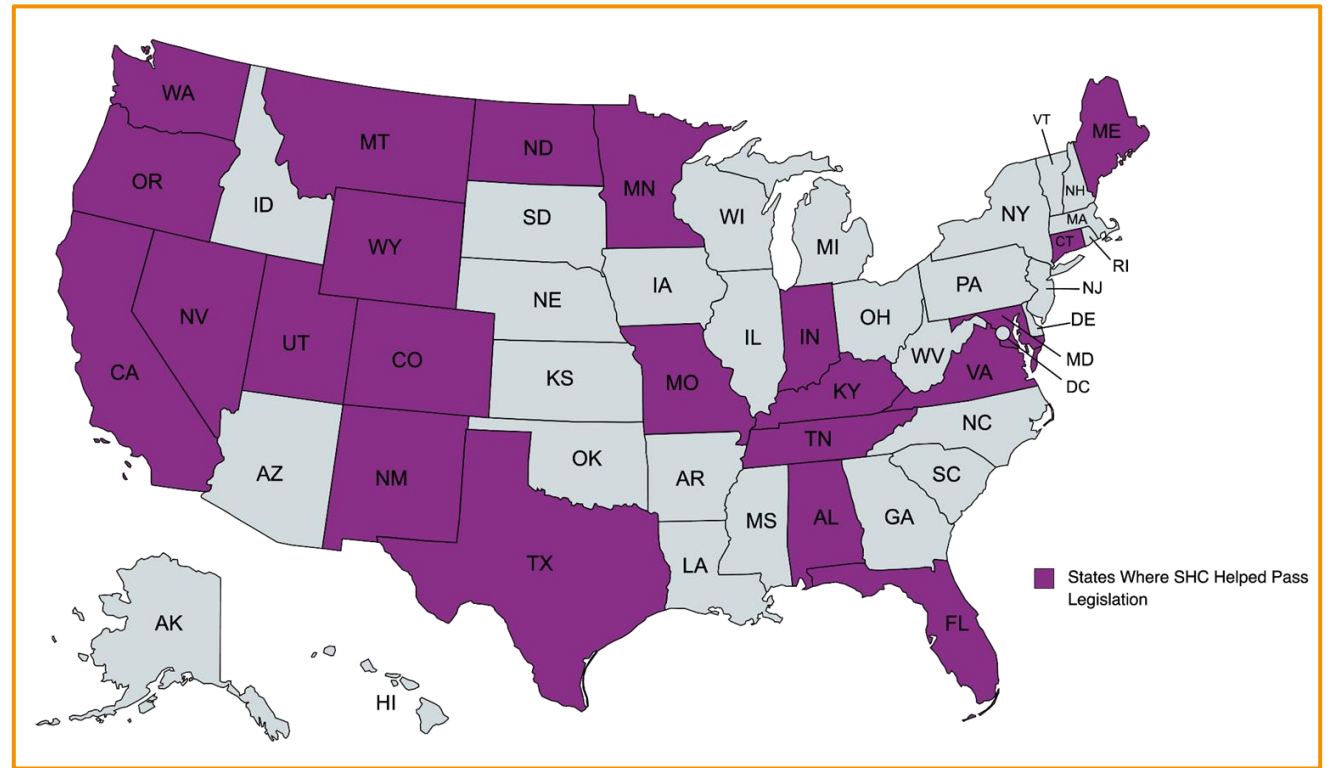
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# SchoolHouse Connection's State Policy Work

## States Where We Helped Pass Laws



## STATE POLICY

# Key Areas for State Policy

Many of the policies most important for preventing and addressing youth homelessness fall under state law.

Access to vital documents

State early care and education policy

Child welfare

Funding for services

Employment programs

Minor consent for shelter/housing; Health and mental health insurance and access

# Youth Homelessness Advocacy in Wisconsin

In collaboration with the Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services and other stakeholders, SHC has been involved in policy reform in the state for the past two years aimed at:

- **Supporting “Safe Harbor” Legislation** - [AB48/SB55](#), the Safe Harbor bills, would fix the gap between federal and state trafficking laws and protect vulnerable minors. Safe Harbor legislation prevents minors from being charged with prostitution.
- **Reintroducing Parental Notification Legislation** - Previously proposed (SB 331/AB 284 of 2021) bill aligning Wisconsin’s notification and consent requirements with the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, requiring parental consent within 72 hours (instead of 12) giving providers added time to work in the child’s best interest.
- **Introducing Medical Consent Legislation** - Legislation providing unaccompanied homeless minors the right to consent to their own basic physical health, mental health, and dental care, which they cannot access currently.



# Questions or Comments?

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