



Laura Terrill, PPAMT VP of External Affairs, preparing to oppose House Bills 136 and 171 in House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, January 19.

Photo by Thom Bridge for Helena Independent Record

This Week at the Montana Legislature

January 24, 2021

A Big Start to the Week

Last week, more than 500 of you called or messaged House Judiciary Committee members and told them to vote No on four anti-abortion pieces of legislation: House Bills 136, 140, 167, and 171. It was a truly powerful display of Montanans' opposition to policies that would infringe on our constitutional right to make personal, private health care decisions for ourselves. Tomorrow those bills will be up for debate in Montana's House of Representatives, followed by the anti-trans House Bills 112 and 113.

We know that dangerous bills like these have an outsized effect on people of color, those who live in rural communities, those with disabilities, and low-income households. [Join us on Facebook Live tomorrow after the House adjourns for the day \(approximately 3.p.m.\) for a virtual press conference hosted by the Montana Reproductive Rights Coalition to hear from experts about these impacts.](#) The online

event will feature personal abortion stories, rural perspectives, and information from racial equity, medical, and legal experts.

Speakers will include:

Laura Terrill - VP of External Affairs, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

Cambria McDermott - Patient Storyteller

Judith Heilman - Executive Director, Montana Racial Equity Project

Keaton Sunchild - Political Director, Western Native Voice

Dr. Nicole Smith - Public Health Researcher and Board Member, Susan Wicklund Fund and Montanans for Choice

Caitlin Borgman - Executive Director, ACLU of Montana

Take Action This Week

Before Monday's 12 p.m. vote on the House floor, urge your representative to vote NO on House Bills 136, 140, 167, and 171 as well as HB 112 and HB 113. [You can easily look up your legislators using this online map.](#)

- [Send a message to your representative.](#)
- Call the Legislative Information Desk at 406-444-4800. The office is staffed Monday through Friday 7:30AM-5:00PM.
- **Here is a sample message:**
 - We all deserve access to health care based on our medical needs and doctor's best judgment. HB 136, HB 140, HB 167, and HB 171 are all dangerous attempts to interfere with the privacy and health care of Montanans. Every pregnancy is unique, and everyone must have the freedom to make decisions in consultation with their doctor that are best for their own unique circumstances. Politicians are not medical experts and this is not an area where politicians should be interfering.

Share your personal story.

- [Fill out our electronic story form here](#) or contact Julia Maxon, Lead Grassroots Organizer at 406-561-7649 or email at julia.maxon@ppmontana.org if you have a personal story about abortion or accessing reproductive health care that you are interested in sharing to fight dangerous anti-choice legislation.

A message from our partners: [House Bill 176, brought by Rep. Sharon Greef \(R\), would eliminate same-day voter registration in Montana.](#) Making this change would disenfranchise the thousands of Montanans who register and vote on Election Day. [Message members of the House State Administration Committee and tell them to vote No on HB 176.](#)

Interested in giving public comment in writing, virtually testifying, or have any other questions? Contact Julia, (julia.maxon@ppmontana.org)!

Bills We're Fighting This Week

[HB 136: Establish pain-capable unborn child protection act by Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway \(R\), House District 22](#), would ban abortions at 20 weeks, regardless of the health of the woman or fetus, and criminalize doctors who provide them. It would also potentially endanger women by letting courts decide whether or not to keep their names private.

HB 140: Requiring the provision of information before performance of an abortion by Rep. Amy Regier (R), House District 6, claims to provide women with more information, but ultimately seeks to shame and dissuade them from exercising their constitutional right to abortion.

HB 167: Referendum to adopt the Montana Born-Alive Infant Protection Act by Rep. Matt Regier (R), House District 4, uses inflammatory language to drive a false narrative and stigmatize abortion in Montana. As a referendum, it puts women's health and privacy up to a vote with the ultimate goal of banning abortion altogether.

HB 171: Adopt the Montana Abortion-Inducing Drug Risk Protocol Act by Rep. Sharon Greef (R), House District 88, would keep Montanans from accessing medication abortion, delaying access to health care and creating barriers to care — especially for those in rural areas.

HB 112: Require interscholastic athletes to participate under sex assigned at birth by Rep. John Fuller (R), House District 8, would ban transgender athletes from participating in sports in Montana public schools.

HB 113: Provide for youth health protection act by Rep. John Fuller (R), House District 8, would ban transgender minors from accessing gender-affirming medical treatment.

[LC 1513: Constitutional amendment to define 'person' by Rep. Caleb Hinkle \(R\), House District 68](#), would change the definition of 'person' in Montana. *Because the change would define "fertilization or conception" as the beginning of life, it seeks to ban abortion altogether.* As an amendment to our state constitution, it requires a 2/3 majority 'Yes' vote from the legislature as a whole in order to be placed on the ballot for voters to ultimately decide in the next general election.

A Conversation About Paid Leave

Paid Family Leave is crucial to reproductive freedom in Montana and it's once again up for debate in the 2021 legislative session. Join Rep. Moffie Funk, Heather O'Loughlin with [Montana Budget & Policy Center](#), SJ Howell with [Montana Women Vote](#), and Chelsia Rice co-owner of the [Montana Book Company](#) for a conversation about paid leave in Montana. Get a deeper understanding about why it matters, how it would work, and its impact on businesses and families.

[Register for the Tuesday, January 27 12 p.m. webinar](#)

[Visit our website.](#)

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