



PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter - January 27, 2019

Thank You!

On the 46th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, PPAMT and our Montana Reproductive Rights Coalition partners [delivered more than 700 of your letters of support to legislators](#). Representatives from 83 of the 100 districts and senators from 48 of the 50 districts heard loud and clear your support for protecting access to safe, legal abortion in Montana. It was the passion of Advocates like you that moved Sen. Jen Gross (D-Billings) and Rep. Jessica Karjala (D-Billings) to speak on the Montana Senate and House floors that day about the importance of supporting *Roe* in the current political climate. Thank you!

Take Action

In preparation for the push to pass the Montana Human Rights Act, PPAMT's partners with the Free and Fair Coalition are collecting stories of LGBTQ Montanans surviving discrimination in the Treasure State. Has there been a time when you were unfairly fired? Were you denied housing because of your orientation or gender expression? Have you ever been asked to leave a public establishment because of your orientation or gender identity? What do you want lawmakers to know? [Tell your story here](#), and the coalition will share it with lawmakers in the fight to ensure that everyone has access to legal protections regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Do you know others Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana supporters who could benefit from this weekly run-down of the Montana Legislature? [Have them sign up for the newsletter here!](#)

Attacks on Choice

[SB 100: Requiring the provision of information before the performance of an abortion](#)

Requested by Sen. Keith Regier (R-Kalispell), this bill would require that patients be given the option to look at sonogram footage and listen to the fetal heartbeat before their abortion procedures. There is no exception for patients who are seeking abortion after a traumatic incident, like rape or incest, and a physician would still be required to offer even when they know the patient would not want to see or hear it.

[LC 584: Referendum requiring the provision of information before performing an abortion](#)

Again requested by Sen. Keith Regier (R-Kalispell), this is an attempt to bypass the

Governor's signature to have Montanans vote to make the above sonogram proposal a law.

[Wondering what a referendum is? Check out last week's Montana Legislature 101](#)

[LC 1629: Constitutional amendment to define person](#)

Rep. Greg DeVries (R-Jefferson City) is requesting that the Montana constitution line "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law" be amended so that "person" would apply to *all* stages of development, including fertilization or conception. Because this is amending the state constitution directly, it will require the support of a 2/3 majority of the entire Montana Legislature in order to pass.

LC 1903: Constitutional amendment to define person

Requested by Rep. Derek Skees (R-Kalispell), this is another bill seeking to define "person" within the Montana constitution. Again, because it is a constitutional amendment it will also need the support of 2/3 of the entire Montana legislature to pass.

LC 2436: Legislative referendum stating abortion is not constitutional right in Montana

Rep. Theresa Manzella (R-Hamilton) is proposing that Montana voters decide whether or not Montanans have a constitutional right to make private health care decisions like abortion.

Bills to Support

LC 1088: Generally revise medicaid expansion laws

Requested by Rep. Mary Caffero (D-Helena), this bill will serve as the vehicle for the House Democrats will use in preserving Medicaid coverage for nearly 100,000 Montanans.

Upcoming Events

[February 11, Helena](#) - Planned Parenthood of Montana Teen Council Lobby Day

[February 14, Helena](#) - The Free and Fair Coalition's Equality in Montana LGBTQ Lobby Day - [Register here!](#)

[March 27, Helena](#) - [Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana Lobby Day](#) & Planned Parenthood of Montana 50th Anniversary Celebration

Montana Legislature 101: Veto Powers

[Why would legislators want to propose a referendum?](#) One answer might be to avoid getting their bill vetoed.

Once a bill is approved by both the House and the Senate, it's sent to the Governor's desk. The Governor then has four options: signing the bill into law, recommending amendments and sending it back to the legislators for consideration, taking no action at all (in which case the bill automatically becomes a law after 10 days), or vetoing it.

Veto powers aren't taken lightly, and the Governor typically reserves them for bills that have heavy opposition from legislators and constituents alike. Oftentimes organizations and invested parties will submit letters to the Governor outlining their reasons for opposition. After careful consideration of the arguments both for and against the bill, the Governor will decide whether or not to veto it.

During the 2017 Montana legislative session, Governor Bullock vetoed two anti-choice bills that had been passed by the legislature. The vetoed measures included Sen. Albert Olszewski's (R-Kalispell) bill prohibiting abortions of fetuses considered viable and Sen. Keith Regier's (R-Kalispell) that prohibited abortions beyond 20 weeks. In the event that the Governor vetoes a bill but a two-thirds majority of legislators in each chamber disagrees with that decision, they can override the veto and pass it into law.

Thank you for standing with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana.

Visit our website.

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