



This Week at the Montana Legislature March 21, 2021

Fighting for Our Trans Community

These past few months, we've seen a number of legislative attacks on LGBTQ+ and particularly trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit Montanans. Unfortunately, [Gov. Gianforte has made no secret of his anti-trans beliefs in the past](#) and we cannot count on him to veto any of these bills. We're asking you to light up the phones [and inboxes](#) of your legislators for bills such as Rep. Gillette's anti-abortion HB 229 and Sen. Smith's anti-PPMT Senate Bill 99, but also House Bills 112 and 427 plus Senate Bill 215.

A quick recap:

[Rep. Fuller's HB 112](#) would essentially prevent trans students from participating in their school's team sports. [Sen. Carl Glimm's Senate Bill 215](#) legalizes discrimination in Montana under the guise of 'religious freedom'. Simply put, SB 215 endangers human rights and dignity. [House Bill 427, also sponsored by Kalispell's Rep. Fuller \(R - House District 8\)](#), interferes with the patient-provider relationship by barring providers from providing gender-affirming surgeries (or offering referrals for them) to trans minors. *Note: HB 427 is more or less attempting to resurrect HB 113, a bill that already failed twice during this legislative session.*

*The legislative information desk is open to receive phone calls Monday-Friday 7:30am-5pm
406-444-4800*

Take Action

Montana health insurance coverage *must* cover Montana health care!

Rep. Jane Gillette wants to make it impossible for low-income Montanans to get health insurance coverage for abortion — even if they paid for their insurance with their own money! And we all know that the legal right to abortion means nothing if you can't afford to access it. Please call and [email your senator](#) telling them to vote No on HB 229.

Protect quality Sex Ed in Montana — Tell your representative to vote **No** on Senate Bill 99 in the House

Despite this bill being amended in the Senate, Sen. Cary Smith is working hard to pass SB 99 with his original intent still in place: *to attack Planned Parenthood*.

[You can email your House representative here](#), or you can leave them a message by calling the Legislative Information Desk at **406-444-4800**. The desk is available to take calls weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the very friendly staff are always happy to answer your questions!

Write a Letter to the Editor!

We don't have to tell you how important it is to show widespread support for Planned Parenthood and your opposition to dangerous bills such as SB 99. Calling and emailing our legislators at the Capitol is absolutely crucial, and so is speaking out within our communities. Submitting an LTE to your local newspaper is very easy and we're happy to look over your draft, help you put something together, or offer any support you need. Drop us a line at info@ppamt.org and let's get started!

There are still more than 30 days left in the 67th Legislative Session and it's never too late to get involved! [Sign-up to volunteer](#)

This Week

[HB 229: Prohibiting health insurance plans offered through the Health Insurance Exchange from covering abortion services by Rep. Jane Gillette \(R\), House District 64](#), would mean that people who rely on the Affordable Care Act's Health Insurance Exchange would

not have any options to get coverage for abortion. Banning this coverage from Exchange plans would place safe, legal abortion out of reach for the lowest income families in Montana. This bill was heard in Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday. **We're asking that you call and [email your senator](#) telling them to vote No on HB 229!**

[SB 99: Prohibiting abortion providers from offering education by Sen. Cary Smith \(R\), Senate District 27](#) would ban the use of educational resources offered by abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood of Montana. Comprehensive sex education covers everything from birth control and abstinence to STD prevention and safe, healthy relationships. Our young people must have every opportunity to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions. SB 99 was heard in the House Education Committee last Monday and featured amazing personal stories from Teen Council members and former students who benefitted from receiving quality, accurate sex education from Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana. **Call 406-444-4800 to leave a message or [email your representative](#) and tell them to vote No on SB 99.**

[SB 315: Adopt the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act by Sen. David Howard \(R\), Senate District 29](#), is the policy bill version of [HB 167](#), which we previously opposed. As a reminder, House Bill 167 would place anti-abortion language on the next general election ballot and leave it up to Montanans to vote for or against our constitutional right to abortion and personal privacy. Because SB 315 is a regular policy bill, it is up to legislators to decide if this false, stigmatizing, anti-abortion narrative should be made law. This bill will be heard Friday morning in House Judiciary Committee.

Veto Requests

House Bills [136](#), [140](#), and [171](#) still haven't made it to the Governor's desk for his signature. Unless he vetoes them (*let's be frank: not going to happen*), they will be made law and added to the Montana Code Annotated with or without a special signing ceremony. Just as we always have when dangerous anti-reproductive health bills have passed, the Montana Reproductive Rights Coalition submitted veto letters for each. Again, we know chances are incredibly slim that any of these three bills would be vetoed but it's crucial that we put into public record the myriad of legal and moral issues that these bills pose — and that those issues were blatantly ignored.

(Note: While HB [167](#) was approved in the Senate on the same day as House Bills 136, 140, and 171, it was also amended there. For that reason, it heads back to the House for them to approve the changes.)

Questions about these bills or how you can help us fight them? [Contact Julia!](#)

Visit our website.

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