



PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter - February 17, 2019

Take Action

- Rep. DeVries' (R-Jefferson City) "personhood" bill HB 302 has passed the House and is on the way to the Senate. This legislation is an extreme overreach by government into the private lives of Montanans, and its far reaching effects would impact abortion rights, contraception methods, and even in vitro fertilization.

Call (406) 444-4800 and leave a message telling your legislators to vote No on this bill and to protect Montanans' right to access safe, legal abortion.

The legislative information desk is staffed Monday through Friday 7:30am-5:00pm.

[Another option is to send your legislators a message electronically.](#)

Here's a sample message:

Now is the time for legislators to be focused on increasing access to health care, not interfering with it. Amending our constitution in a way that would put government in the doctor's office places the lives of women at risk while infringing upon their freedom to make private medical decisions. I urge you to oppose HB 302.

Last week, over 200 Planned Parenthood supporters took action to oppose HB 302 -- **THANK YOU!**

Check out [this Letter to the Editor](#) that a Planned Parenthood Patient Advocate, Madison Youlden, submitted to the Billings Gazette in opposition to HB 302.

- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana is fighting to end the sunset on Medicaid Expansion.

Contact your legislators, and ask them to support HB 425!

Do you have a story to share of how the expansion has helped you? Reach out to [Rachel Pauli](#) about sharing your experience.

- **Are you interested in submitting a Letter to the Editor about Medicaid, abortion rights, or birth**

control? Contact [Rachel Pauli](#), and we will help you make your voice heard!

- 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. This bill has passed out of Senate Judiciary Committee along party lines.

- [*HB 302: Constitutional amendment to define person*](#)

Rep. Greg DeVries (R-Jefferson City) is requesting that the Montana constitution be amended so that “person” would apply to *all* stages of development, including fertilization or conception. As such, the bill would impact access to abortion, various contraception methods, and in vitro fertilization. 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. PPAMT joined our partners with the Montana Reproductive Rights Coalition in opposing this dangerous bill in front of House Judiciary committee and the bill passed on second reading on the House floor. [Here is a good breakdown of the House floor debate, including heinous remarks made by DeVries.](#)

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

Another bill 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 the January 21 edition of Montana Legislature 101.](#)

- [*HB 500: Adopt the Montana Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*](#)

Requested by Rep. Lola Sheldon-Gallaway (R-Great Falls), this piece of legislation would make it a felony for patients to receive abortions beyond 20 weeks. The bill would even allow for a patient, their spouse, a prosecuting attorney, or the attorney general can sue the physician who performed the procedure.

- [*LC 1903: Constitutional amendment to define person*](#)

Also 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-Helena) 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

- [*HB 425: Generally revise medicaid expansion laws*](#)

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

Help Planned Parenthood of Montana Celebrate 50 Years of Care

- Please join PPMT this spring to [celebrate Planned Parenthood of Montana's legacy of service](#) in the Treasure State.

Helena 50th Celebration

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

5:00 PM VIP Reception

6:00 PM General Admission

Boji Tower | 400 Euclid Ave,
Helena, MT

Billings 50th Celebration

Saturday, April 6, 2019

5:00 PM VIP Reception

6:00 PM General Admission

The Billings Depot | 2310 Montana
Ave, Billings, MT

Missoula 50th Celebration

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

5:00 PM VIP Reception

6:00 PM General Admission

University of Montana Ballroom | 32 Camp
Dr., Missoula, MT

Upcoming Events

March 27, Helena

[Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana Lobby Day](#)

[Helena's Planned Parenthood of Montana 50th Anniversary Celebration](#)

April 6, Billings

[Planned Parenthood of Montana 50th Anniversary Celebration](#)

[April 9, Missoula](#)

[Planned Parenthood of Montana 50th Anniversary Celebration](#)

Thank you for standing with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana.

Visit our website.

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