



*Tell the House Bill 2 Conference Committee to vote NO on the House Bill 686 amendment establishing an Abortion Court.*

## **This Week at the Montana Legislature** **April 25, 2021**

### **Where does the Abortion Court amendment belong? Not here, not there, not anywhere.**

In case you missed out on last week's big news, let's do a quick review of what this Abortion Court amendment is all about:

*In a first-of-its-kind proposal, [this amendment to HB 686](#) would require that before the state may reimburse a provider for any service related to an abortion, a tribunal of three politically-appointed physicians gets to decide if a safe, legal abortion meets the arbitrary reimbursement criteria established by the state.*

*In an unprecedented political attack, the Governor, Senate President, and the Speaker of the House (all Republicans – surprise!) will be able to appoint a*

*physician to the Abortion Court where their sole job will be to second-guess the decisions of their peers by investigating private medical records.*

The amendment was initially introduced and subsequently voted down in Senate Finance & Claims, but sponsor Rep. Matt Regier (R), House District 4, refused to take No — *or your hundreds of emails or 150+ phone calls* — for an answer. And so the Abortion Court amendment has moved to the House Bill 2 Conference Committee where they are trying again to push the amendment through this week.

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## Take Action Today

**Tell House Bill 2 Conference Committee members to vote NO on the HB 686 Abortion Court amendment!**

[Send the HB 2 Conference Committee an electronic message today](#) and tell them to resist allocating funds for the Abortion Court amendment and its cruel, inappropriate, unconstitutional, and an unprecedented invasion of privacy. You can also call the Legislative Information Desk first thing Monday morning! Last week there was some confusion around an old voicemail message on the desk's phone line. If you hear it when you call, it just means that the line is busy and please try again!

**406-444-4800**

The Legislative Information Desk is open for calls weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

And while you're at it, [share this link](#) with three friends asking them to join you in messaging the HB 2 Conference Committee members!

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## No Thank You.

Throughout this legislative session, there have been a number of anti-abortion (and in some cases explicitly anti-Planned Parenthood) bills. We don't have to remind you that none of these extremist bills will do anything for Montanans' health.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana is of course committed to doing whatever it takes to unravel these laws-to-be. This week alone, we're joining forces with our partners in the Montana Reproductive Rights Coalition to feature a full-page ad in every

Lee newspaper in the state to highlight the shameful intentions of the bills' proponents. [To hear them spell those intentions out in their own words](#), you can check out our new website, [NoThankYou.me](#), where we outline what each of these bills mean for Montanans.

And be sure to pick up a copy of the *Billings Gazette*, *Helena Independent Record*, *Missoulian*, *Montana Standard*, or *Ravalli Republic* on Wednesday to see the ad for yourself!

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

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## Recommended Reading

**Daily Montanan:** [Proposed law would create abortion review committee for Medicaid](#)

“First and foremost, targeting Medicaid recipients is heartless and cruel because these women cannot afford an abortion without Medicaid covering it,” Stahl said.

One of the challenges her group sees with the proposal is that Montana law and Medicaid already are obligated to cover abortions deemed medically necessary. This measure, she said, is redundant and wasteful, not to mention harmful to women.

“It puts some women in the position of not knowing whether something is going to be covered until after the fact,” she said.

She suspects that’s the point: To make abortion more difficult and cumbersome, not to root out fraud.

**Missoula Current:** [Legislature approves transgender oppression bill, despite millions of dollars at stake](#)

Beyond legal challenges, the bill also could prevent the NCAA from holding championships in Montana, costing Missoula and Bozeman tens of millions of dollars in revenue. The association released a [statement](#) earlier this month decrying bills like HB 112.

**Billings Gazette: [Letter to the editor: Leave medicine to the professionals](#)**

“Perhaps they are just ardent anti-choice people who have picked women as a target, hampering their ability to exercise their right to choosing the health care they need.”

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