



**Tell Senate Judiciary Committee
members to **vote NO on House
Bills 136, 140, 167 & 171****

**406-444-4800
leg.mt.gov/web-messaging**

Call or email Senate Judiciary Committee members on Monday and tell them to vote No on House Bills 136, 140, 167, and 171.

This Week at the Montana Legislature

February 7, 2021

Making Our Voices Heard

This week we had the privilege of listening to Montanans (including some of you!) defend access to safe, legal abortion, as well as sex education in schools. Thank you to everyone who reached out last week to members of the Senate Judiciary and Education & Cultural Resources committees, whether by testifying in opposition over Zoom, calling, or emailing. We cannot stress enough how meaningful it is for legislators to hear from the people they represent! If you haven't already, please call for a 'No' vote on House Bills 136, 140, 167, and 171 in Senate Judiciary, and on Senate Bill 99 in Senate Education & Cultural Resources.

Are there other bills in the 67th Legislative Session that you're hoping to testify in support of or opposition to? [Laura Terrill, PPAMT's Vice President of External Affairs, teamed up with some of our friends to offer some advice:](#)



"This is your state government. My dad has a great adage about citizen advocacy, which is that the least that you can do is ask to be heard and the most that you can do is ask to be heard."

Take Action

Tell Senate Judiciary Committee Member to vote No on House Bills 136, 140, 167, and 171.

Last Thursday and Friday, these four attacks on abortion were heard in Senate Judiciary Committee so very soon they will be up for a vote. Call or email committee members and tell them that they must vote No on these attempts to stigmatize and ban safe, legal abortion in Montana.

[Head here to send a message to all committee members](#) or call **406-444-4800** to leave a message. The legislative information desk is staffed Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Here's a sample message:

House Bills 136, 140, 167, and 171 are nothing more than government intrusion into Montanan's private health care decisions. Please vote No on these misleading attempts to shame women and stigmatize safe, legal abortion. Politicians are not medical experts and this is not an area where politicians should be interfering.

Tell Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee to vote No on SB 99.

Last Wednesday, the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee heard [SB 99, Sen. Smith's attempt to create barriers to sex ed in Montana's schools and bar abortion providers like Planned Parenthood from offering educational resources](#). Call or email the committee members and remind them that students must have every opportunity to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions.

Interested in writing an LTE for your local newspaper or learning how else to make your voice heard during the 67th Legislative Session? Contact Julia, 406-561-7649 or (julia.maxon@ppmontana.org)!

Bills We're Fighting This Week

SB 99: [Requiring parents to opt-in to sexual education in schools, Prohibiting abortion providers from offering education by Sen. Cary Smith \(R\), Senate District 27](#), would prohibit students from receiving any sex ed without written permission from their parents or guardians and 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. Last Wednesday, Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee heard from Montana teens and other opponents testifying to protect sex education in Montana! Long story short: it was incredible. ***Call or email Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee members Monday and tell them to vote No on SB 99.***

[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.

House Bills 136 and 171 were heard in Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday (featuring Montanans sharing their own personal, powerful abortion stories), and HBs 140 and 167 were heard there the following day. Call or email Senate Judiciary Committee members on Monday and tell them to vote No on all four!

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 passed in House last week and will soon be heard in the Senate. Stay tuned to our social media channels — [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) — for updates on how to take action!*

Legislation We're Watching

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. *This bill was passed in the House on January 27 and should be moving to Senate Judiciary Committee soon.*

[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. This bill has not yet been delivered to the House for its first reading, but we're keeping a close eye on it.

Questions about these bills or how you can help us fight them? Contact Julia, (julia.maxon@ppmontana.org)!

[Visit our website.](#)

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana
1116 Grand Ave
Suite 201
Billings, MT 59102
United States

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