



PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter

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.

[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? See below!*)

[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. We will alert you to specific bill language when it is available.

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. Listening sessions with the community will help inform the bill language and is therefore forthcoming.

Take Action

On January 22nd 2019, we celebrate the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision that secured our constitutional right to access safe, legal abortion. We must urge our state legislature to allow all Montanans to have the freedom and privacy to control their own bodies and to decide if or when to start a family. [Click here to sign onto a letter urging state legislators to protect reproductive freedom for Montanans. Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana will hand-deliver this letter to your state legislators on your behalf, sending a powerful message that all Montanans should have the right to make their own private health care decisions.](#)

Upcoming Events

January 22 - Commemoration of the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade

January 23 - *The Future of Choice: Roe v. Wade at 46 Years*

PPAMT VP of External Affairs, Laura Terrill, will be presenting on legislative attempts to erode reproductive rights in Montana

6:30pm - Procrastinator Theatre at Montana State University in Bozeman

Montana Legislature 101: What's a referendum?

A referendum allows legislators to place a proposed law directly before voters for their consideration. If a referendum bill receives the majority Yea votes from legislators, it bypasses the governor's signature that's typically required for passage and heads straight to voters' ballots.

You might be thinking, *Well wait a minute. I love voting! What's the problem here?* First of all, thanks for being an active and engaged voter! Unfortunately, not every voter is as engaged and informed. In fact, those who propose referenda sometimes rely on campaigns of disinformation, not unlike what we saw in Big Tobacco's fight against I-185 this fall. We also believe that Montanans' humanity and dignity should not be up for a vote, as was proposed with the anti-trans I-183 initiative last summer.

PPAMT and our fellow members of the Montana Reproductive Rights Coalition will be fighting referenda like LC 584 and LC 2436 that seek to strip an individual's right to make private healthcare decisions for themselves and their families.

*We encourage you to share this information with your networks.
Anyone is welcome to sign-up for PPAMT communications by [clicking here](#).*

Thank you for standing with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana.