

# PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter - April 1, 2019

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## Montana Legislature 101: What does Transmittal Deadline mean?

Today, April 1, marks the final transmittal deadline for all spending (“appropriation”) bills, money-raising (“revenue”) bills, and referenda (bills that would place something on the statewide ballot for popular vote). That means that every bill has to have made it from one chamber to the other by then -- so if a bill originated in the House then it has to have been approved by that body and sent to the Senate, and vice versa. *What if a bill doesn't get voted on by Monday night?* Then the bill is effectively dead.

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## Take Action

- HB 500 is a dangerous attack by politicians to interfere with the privacy and health care of Montanans by establishing an unconstitutional ban on abortion starting at 20 weeks, even in emergencies.

**This is dangerous legislation that is a government overreach into medical practice, criminalizes doctors, and is detrimental to the health of Montanans.**

Here is what you can do to stop this dangerous legislation:

- [Send a message to your legislators](#) urging them to vote NO on HB

500.

- Contact us if you have a personal story about abortion that you are interested in sharing to fight dangerous anti-choice legislation.
- Share this information with your networks! Go to [our Facebook page](#), and share our action items, and tell your friends why you're taking action, and use the hashtags #WeWontGoBack and #IStandWithPP
- Text this link to your friends, and ask them to send a message, too! <http://bit.ly/NOHB500>
- Rep. DeVries' (R-Jefferson City) "personhood" bill HB 302 is currently being considered by 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.

[Send your legislators a message electronically](#) urging them to vote No on this bill and to protect Montanans' right to access safe, legal abortion.

- While Rep. Mary Caferro's (D-Helena) HB 425 MedEx bill did not ultimately pass, HB 658 from Rep. Ed Buttrey (R-Great Falls) continues to be in play. While we are disappointed with aspects of the bill, we continue to fight alongside our allies in the Capitol to address its shortcomings and push for it to better and more fairly serve all Montanans.

Do you have a story to share of how the expansion has helped you? Are you interested in submitting a Letter to the Editor in support of MedEx? Reach out to [Rachel.Pauli@ppmontana.org](mailto:Rachel.Pauli@ppmontana.org)!

- 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!](#)

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## 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 the Senate and been heard in House Judiciary Committee, but has not yet received a committee vote.

- [\*SB 354: The Montana Born-Alive Infant Protection Act\*](#)

Proposed by Sen. Albert Olszewski (R-Kalispell), SB 354 is an inflammatory tactic driving a misleading narrative that seeks only to ultimately ban abortion. The bill language is intentionally vague and would criminalize doctors who are helping patients in tragic circumstances. It's important to note that a health care professional would always provide appropriate and necessary medical care if there was a rare case where an infant was born alive after an abortion. This bill passed out of the Senate and is awaiting a hearing in House Judiciary Committee.

- [\*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 and our partners with the Montana Reproductive Rights Coalition presented passionate opposition in a hostile Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Tuesday, March 19. We urge you to stand with us and to tell your state senator to vote No on HB 302!

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

Introduced by Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (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 to sue the physician who performed the procedure. HB 500 has passed out of the House and moved to the Senate, where it will soon be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee. Make time this week to leave a message for your senators to vote No on this abhorrent bill.

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## Bills to Oppose

- [\*HB 146: Establish laws regarding sanctuary cities in Montana\*](#)

Introduced by Rep. Holmlund (R-Miles City), HB 146 is an anti-immigrant bill that would prohibit localities from making their own decision about what to prioritize to maintain public safety. This bill is an extension of President Trump's push for draconian anti-immigrant policies and practices. When local law enforcement are forced to act as federal immigration agents, immigrants and their families often forgo essential services, including healthcare, out of fear of deportation, harassment, and scrutiny. **Take action:** HB 146 passed out of committee and is heading to the Senate Floor. Call and tell your senator you don't want the state controlling decisions that should be left up to local communities.

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## Revenue Bills and Economic Justice

- Planned Parenthood supported two bills that would have offered fair and effective ways to generate state revenue, which goes toward funding essential services like education and healthcare. We believe that all Montanans deserve the tools they need to live safe, healthy, and autonomous lives and that often begins with financial stability. Unfortunately, both [HB 707: Revise capital gains tax credit](#), sponsored by Rep. Kim Abbott, and
- [HB 697: Restore top income tax brackets on high-income income earners](#), sponsored by Rep. Jim Hamilton, failed to make it out of the House Taxation Committee.
- [HB 290: Require child support cooperation for food stamp \(SNAP\) eligibility](#)

Introduced by Rep. Peggy Webb (R-Billings), this bill will hurt Montana families and children by requiring cooperation with child support enforcement for food stamp eligibility. Taking away food assistance would force low-income parents to make the impossible choice between the food they need and the basic health and safety of themselves and their children. Unfortunately, HB290 was passed by the legislature and is heading to the Governor's desk. We hope the Governor will recognize that this bill does nothing to help lift low-income Montanans out of poverty and use his veto pen to reject HB290.

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## 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.

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

Saturday, April 6, 2019

5:00 PM VIP Reception

6:00 PM General Admission

The Billings Depot || 2310 Montana Ave, Billings, MT

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

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

5:00 PM VIP Reception

6:00 PM General Admission

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

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## Recommended Reading

1. Have you heard the news about the Trump Administration's Domestic Gag Rule? [Learn more here about what it means for patients and how you can work with Planned Parenthood to stop it.](#)
- Our friends at the Montana Budget & Policy Center have shared [this great blog post about the ins and outs of HB 2, the legislature's proposed budget for the state of Montana](#). It's a great breakdown of what's in it, what's been cut, and how it differs from Governor Bullock's proposed budget.

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## Thank You!

- Thanks to all those who were able to join us for Planned Parenthood's Lobby Day. Supporters from across the state spoke to legislators about the importance of voting No on both HB 302 and HB 500 and of supporting Medicaid Expansion.

Visit our website.

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