

PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter

March 24, 2019

Take Action

- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana looks forward to taking action with you at this week's Planned Parenthood Lobby Day! Have a friend who's hoping to join but wasn't able to meet the March 22 registration deadline? Ask them to email [Rachel Pauli](#) to get signed up.

Reproductive rights, health, and freedom are not up for negotiation – Together, we will make sure that elected officials are held accountable.

- 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 Medicaid? Reach out to [Rachel Pauli](#)!
- 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! 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 a message telling your legislators](#)** asking them to vote No on this bill and to protect Montanans' right to access safe, legal abortion.
 - 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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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 Planned Parenthood of Montana 50th Anniversary Celebration](#)

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

5:00 PM VIP Reception

6:00 PM General Admission

Staggering Ox || 400 Euclid Ave, Helena, MT

[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

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.

Contact your legislators and urge them to support the bill and to oppose any legislation that includes work requirements, which we know disproportionately harm women, families, and low-wage workers. A big Thank You to the hundreds of supporters who attended the Medicaid Expansion rally in a powerful show of support last Saturday!

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 will be heard on House Judiciary Committee on Monday, March 25.
- [*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 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. Make time this week to leave a message for your legislators to vote No on this abhorrent bill.

- [*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](#)

- *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-Hamilton) is proposing that Montana voters decide whether or not Montanans have a constitutional right to make private health care decisions like abortion.

Bill to Oppose

- [HB 290: Require child support cooperation for food stamp \(SNAP\) eligibility](#)

Introduced by Rep. Peggy Webb (R-Billings), this bill would 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. This bill will be heard tomorrow, Monday March 25, in the Senate Finance & Claims Committee where PPAMT will testify in opposition. Planned Parenthood trusts Montanans to make personal decisions based on what they know is best for their families and is committed to building a world where people have full access to all of the tools they need to live safe, healthy, and autonomous lives.

Recommended Reading

- 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.

**Thank you for standing with Planned
Parenthood Advocates of Montana.**

Visit our website.

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