



URGENT:

**Montana Republicans want to establish an Abortion Court.
Seriously.**



TAKE ACTION

**Send a message to the
Senate Finance and Claims Committee:**

**Tell them to vote *NO* on
the House Bill 686 Amendment.**

*Tell Senate Finance & Claims Committee to vote NO on the House Bill 686 amendment
establishing an Abortion Court.*

This Week at the Montana Legislature April 18, 2021

Republicans are trying to create an Abortion Court.

Yep, you read that right. In an amendment to House Bill 686, Republicans are trying to establish a politically-appointed panel to second-guess a physician's decision to provide an abortion. Read on for details surrounding the amendment and what you can do about it!

Take Action Today

Tell Senate Finance & Claims to vote NO on the HB 686 Abortion Court amendment

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 will be voted on *tomorrow, Monday April 19* so [send an electronic message today](#) and tell them that this is cruel, inappropriate, unconstitutional, and an unprecedented invasion of privacy. You can also call the Legislative Information Desk first thing Monday morning!

And while you're at it, [share this link](#) with three friends asking them to do the same.

406-444-4800

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

Thank You

Thanks to all who called and emailed their legislators regarding [Rep. Caleb Hinkle's House Bill 337](#), a bill that would have redefined 'Person' in the Montana constitution in order to ban abortion! The bill was voted down last week in the Senate.

Unfortunately, the Senate did vote to pass [Rep. Jane Gillette's House Bill 229](#) and bar health insurance plans that cover abortion from being included in the state's insurance exchange. Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana will be joining our partners in the Montana Reproductive Rights Coalition in requesting a veto from Governor Gianforte.

Recommended Reading

New York Times: [I'm the Head of Planned Parenthood. We're Done Making Excuses for Our Founder.](#)

"Sanger remains an influential part of our history and will not be erased, but [as we tell the history of Planned Parenthood's founding](#), we must fully take responsibility for the

harm that Sanger caused to generations of people with disabilities and Black, Latino, Asian-American, and Indigenous people."

Montana Standard: ['Personhood' bill aiming to ban abortion dies in Montana Senate](#)

"Opponents to the bill argued that abortion is a legal procedure and that Hinkle's bill would limit access to emergency contraception and in-vitro fertilization.

Sen. Diane Sands, a Missoula Democrat, said Tuesday that the legislation was harmful and wouldn't stop women from accessing abortions."

AP News: *Biden begins to undo Trump-era ban on abortion referrals*

"The Biden administration on Wednesday began to undo [a Trump-era ban on clinics referring women for abortions](#), a policy that drove Planned Parenthood from the federal family planning program and created new complications for women trying to get birth control.

The proposed rule from the Department of Health and Human Services follows through on President Joe Biden's campaign promise to reverse his predecessor's family planning policy, which was branded a "gag rule" by women's groups and decried by medical associations as violating the doctor-patient relationship."

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

[Visit our website.](#)

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