



# PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter

## March 3, 2019

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### Take Action

- *Reproductive rights, health care, and freedom are under attack at every level of government, including right here in the Montana legislature.*

Help us show and tell elected officials that Montana stands with Planned Parenthood!

[Register here to join us in Helena for a day of action on Wednesday, March 27th.](#)

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

- *HB 500 is a dangerous attempt by politicians to interfere with the privacy and health care of Montanans.*

Every person's circumstance is different and every pregnancy is unique.

We all deserve access to health care based on our medical needs and doctor's best judgment.

Throughout their pregnancy, a person must be able to make health decisions that are best for their circumstances, including whether to end a pregnancy, without interference from politicians and the government.

[Send a message to your legislators, and join us in Helena](#) to oppose the so-called “fetal pain” bill HB 500 in House Judiciary Committee. Connect with [Rachel Pauli](#) if you are available to join us in fighting this dangerous bill or if you are interested in sharing your personal story.

- *On Saturday, March 16th, the House Human Services Committee will hear HB 425, which would lift the Medicaid Expansion sunset, and protect the health care of nearly 1 in 10 Montanans.*

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana supports HB 425.

Some legislators are calling for changes to Medicaid that would kick up to 43,000 Montanans off their health insurance, according to a recent study.

**We are asking supporters to contact their legislators to oppose LC 1251** and any proposal that would impose eligibility restrictions, like work requirements. Work requirements that would disproportionately affect women, families, and low-wage workers.

**Join PPAMT in Helena on March 16 for the bill's 9AM hearing in House Human Services, as well as a rally to protect Medicaid in Montana.**

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](#).

- *Rep. DeVries' (R-Jefferson City) "personhood" bill HB 302 has passed out of the House and moved to Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration. 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.*

**Call (406) 444-4800 and leave a message telling your senator to vote No on this bill and to protect Montanans' right to access safe, legal abortion.**

The legislative information desk is staffed Monday through Friday 7:30am-5:00pm.

[Another option is to send your legislators a message electronically.](#)

Here's a sample message:

Now is the time for legislators to be focused on increasing access to health care, not interfering with it. Amending our constitution in a way that would put government in the doctor's office places the lives of women at risk while infringing upon their freedom to make private medical decisions. I urge you to

oppose HB 302.

- *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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## Thank You

Although these bills did not pass, thank you for the calls that you made and the messages you wrote in support:

- [\*HB 465: Generally revise the Montana human rights act\*](#)

Carried by Rep. Kim Abbott (D-East Helena), HB 465 advocated for adding "sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression" to the existing Montana Human Rights Act, protecting LGBTQ+ Montanans from the threat of being fired or denied housing due to their identities. House Judiciary Committee tabled this bill once again this year, meaning that it is effectively dead. As we have in the past, PPAMT will continue the fight for dignity for all Montanans.

- [\*HB 595: Require coverage of 12-month supply of prescription contraceptives\*](#)

Introduced by Rep. Laurie Bishop (D-Livingston), HB 595 would have ensured Montanans better access to birth control and the benefits that result from consistent use, such as reducing a user's odds of unintended pregnancy by 30%. Unfortunately this bill was tabled in House Human Services Committee this week. PPAMT understands the importance of all Montanans having reasonable access to birth control and you can trust that we'll introduce this bill again during the next legislative session.

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## 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.*

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## 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. Join PPAMT in Helena on March 16 at 9am for the bill's hearing in House Human Services followed by the [rally to protect Medicaid Expansion in Montana](#).

## 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 moved to House Judiciary Committee. Make time this week to call House Judiciary Committee members and urge them to vote No on this harmful bill.

- [\*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 joined our partners with the Montana Reproductive Rights Coalition in opposing this dangerous bill in front of House Judiciary committee. We urge you to call your state senator and tell them 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. This bill is similar to 2017’s HB 595 from Rep. Derek Skees (R-Kalispell) but worse -- implicating abortions as early as 20 weeks rather than the previous 24 weeks.

- [\*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.

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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 50th Celebration**

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

5:00 PM VIP Reception

6:00 PM General Admission

Staggering Ox || 400 Euclid Ave, Helena, MT

- **Billings 50th Celebration**

Saturday, April 6, 2019

5:00 PM VIP Reception

6:00 PM General Admission

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

- **Missoula 50th 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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## Upcoming Events

- *March 16, Helena*

Medicaid hearing in House Human Services and [Montana Women Vote Medicaid Expansion rally in the Capitol Rotunda](#)

- *March 27, Helena*

[Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana Lobby Day](#)

[Helena's Planned Parenthood of Montana 50th Anniversary Celebration](#)

- *April 6, Billings*

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

- *April 9, Missoula*

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

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

Visit our website.

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