



PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter - February 10, 2019

Take Action

- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana believes that all Montanans deserve access to health care, no matter what.

That is why we are counting on our supporters to **take action to protect Medicaid for nearly 100,000 Montanans**, including thousands of patients at Planned Parenthood of Montana, who rely on Medicaid for health coverage.

[Fill out this online form to send your legislators a message.](#)

- Rep. DeVries' (R-Jefferson City) "personhood" bill HB 302 was heard in House Judiciary on Thursday, February 7. 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 legislators to vote NO on HB 302 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.

- Join with fellow equality advocates at Montana's State Capitol to ask our legislators to add sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as protected classes in the Montana Human Rights Act.**

Did you know that you can still be fired, evicted, or refused service in Montana because of your sexual orientation or gender identity and expression? LGBTQ+ Montanans deserve to live their lives and fully participate in their communities without fear of losing their jobs or housing because of who they love, how they identify, and how they express themselves.

This week's lobby day will be followed by a teach-in where participants will learn how to build sustainable movements that have tangible effects for LGBTQ Montanans.

Find out more and register to attend [here](#).

Invite your friends to participate [here](#).

Find a carpool [here](#).

Has there been a time when you were unfairly fired? Were you denied housing because of your orientation or gender expression? Have you ever been asked to leave a public establishment because of your orientation or gender identity? What do you want lawmakers to know?

[Tell your story here](#), and the coalition will share it with lawmakers in the fight to ensure that everyone has access to legal protections regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

- 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!](#)

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

Upcoming Events

- [February 11, Helena](#)

Planned Parenthood of Montana Teen Council Lobby Day

- [February 14, Helena](#)

The Free and Fair Coalition's Equality in Montana LGBTQ Lobby Day - [Register here!](#)

- [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](#)

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's first hearing took place on Friday, February 1 so stay tuned in the weeks to come for ways to take action!

- [*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 legislators and tell them to vote No on HB 302!

- [*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*](#)

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.

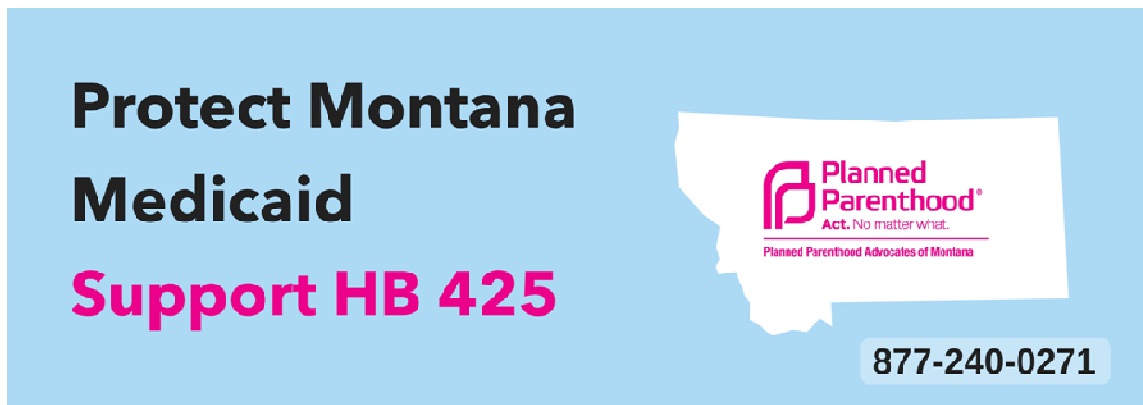
- *LC 2436: Legislative referendum stating abortion is not constitutional right in Montana*

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.

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.



**Protect Montana
Medicaid
Support HB 425**

**Planned
Parenthood®**
Act. No matter what.
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

877-240-0271

Thank you for standing with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana.

Visit our website.

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