



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

Act. No matter what.

Legislative Update 4.27.23

You have likely been following the recent events in the [Montana State Legislature](#). As of Wednesday afternoon, **Rep. Zephyr has been removed from the House floor**. While she'll be able to vote remotely, she will not be allowed to speak on the House floor for the remainder of the session.

This is incredibly undemocratic and an extreme measure to take against the first openly transgender woman elected to the Montana state legislature. Our Director of External Affairs shared this statement in support of Rep. Zephyr:

“In Montana, and across the country, we have seen the most disgraceful, heartless, and targeted attacks on our LGBTQ+ community this legislative session. And today we are witnessing the most unconscionable act of them all: Silencing and forbidding the presence of an elected official and the 11,000 Montanans that sent Rep. Zooey Zephyr to represent them.

Representative Zephyr has courageously broken barriers and spoken truth to power, all while being surrounded by colleagues who misgender and tarnish her. She has been unwavering in her advocacy for her constituents, as well as for all trans, non-binary, intersex, and Two-Spirit Montanans. We will not be silent and allow the Montana GOP to destroy any vestige of democracy in broad daylight.”

What you can do...

- **Support community care** by staying up to date on direct requests from trans Montanans by following [TransVisible Montana](#).
- **Show your Support for Rep. Zephyr** by sending her an [encouraging message](#) or by signing and sharing [this petition](#) from Montana Federation of Public Employees (*note, you are required to share your phone number, but it does not have to be a cellphone number).
- **Attend a rally near you**. As of right now, we are aware of two rallies happening this weekend in response to Monday's events and Rep. Zephyr's expulsion. There will be one in **Livingston on Saturday at 5:30PM** (meeting location: corner of 5th and Park), and one in **Missoula tomorrow from 7-9PM** (meet at 5:30PM to march from Rose Park; rally location TBD. Reach out to info@queerjoymissoula.com for more info).



PRIDE & DETERMINATION

A 24 HOUR CELEBRATION OF QUEER JOY & RESILIENCE

In response to the silencing of Missoula Rep. Zoey Zephyr and the hateful actions of our state legislature, we're taking to the streets to make our presence known, our voices heard, and spread queer joy for 24 hours!

FRIDAY 4/28

MARCH FROM ROSE PARK: MEET AT 5:30 PM

RALLY: 7 PM - 9 PM

STREET PARTY (18+): 9 PM - MIDNIGHT

SATURDAY 4/29

COMMUNITY CARE DAY

Gentle movement & art-making: 10 AM - 3 PM

Free community meal and more art time: 3 PM - 6 PM

Families, food donations very welcome!

Questions? Wanna help out or donate?
Head to queerjoymissoula.com OR
email info@queerjoymissoula.com



Some additional links for context/resources:

Free & Fair Coalition Letter to Gianforte (PPAMT signed)

<https://mhrn.org/2023/03/31/free-fair-coalition-letter-to-gov-gianforte-on-anti-transgender-legislation/>

Free & Fair Statement from April 19

<https://mhrn.org/2023/04/19/reject-censure-rep-zephyr/>

Montana Human Rights Network Transgender Health Care guide

<https://mhrn.org/2023/01/02/mhrns-transgender-healthcare-guide/>

Attacks on Abortion

There is still time! Please Contact Governor Gianforte and ask him to veto the following bills:

House Bill 303, HB 544, HB 575, HB 625, HB 721, HB 862, HB 937, HB 968, and **Senate Bill** 154 (yes, we know that's a lot of bill numbers!)

There are three ways you can contact the Governor:

- **Call and leave a message for him early next week between 8AM and 5PM at 406.444.3111** *Note: you cannot leave a voicemail, so if you are not able to reach a human when you call, either call back, or use these other two methods below.
- Send him an email at governor@mt.gov
- [Use this portal](#) to send a message to his office.

If you call and leave a message with Capitol staff, you may simply list off these bills, or you if you would like to personalize a message, please refer to previous emails for more background and information on each of these bills.

If you have any questions or need some additional talking points, please respond to this email and I will do my best to follow up with you in a timely manner.

DPHHS Update

If you received emails from us in January, you are aware of the [DPHHS rule amendment](#) targeting coverage for abortions for Medicaid recipients. We expect to hear more about [the rule change](#) tomorrow and will be in touch with more information.

In Solidarity,
Jessica Lahr (she/hers)
Community Organizer