

PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter

March 11, 2019

Action Rendition

Last week was Transmittal break, so check out last week's legislative newsletter [here](#).

This week, we are asking you to take action on two issues that impact the folks Planned Parenthood organizations fight for and serve every day.

Take Action to Protect Safe, Legal Abortion

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.

In an emergency, when a provider should be focused entirely on the health and wellbeing of their patient, they will instead have to worry about being charged with a felony.

This extreme proposal also threatens to make the identity of a patient public, even against their will, invading their privacy with the potential of threatening their personal safety.

This is dangerous legislation that is a government overreach into medical practice, criminalizes doctors, and is detrimental to the health 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 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.

Politicians are not medical experts, and this is *not* an area where politicians should be interfering.

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! **<http://bit.ly/NOHB500>**

Protect Medicaid: Oppose Work Requirements that Harm Women

Thousands of patients at Planned Parenthood of Montana rely on Medicaid to receive preventative care, birth control, cancer screenings, and needed follow-up care.

The state legislature is weighing its options to change or continue the Medicaid program in Montana this session, and we are fighting to protect it.

Work requirements disproportionately harm women, families, and low-wage workers.

Because women are the ones who get pregnant, give birth, and tend to care for newborns, they are more likely to have no paid time off or lose a job during

this time - especially low-wage workers.

Women are more likely to be responsible for children when parents are not together.

Women are less likely to be able to afford childcare in order to work full time.

Sometimes childcare costs more than what someone would make in a job.

Women are also more likely than men to care for an aging parent or sick family member, which can mean losing a job.

In general, women - and particularly women of color - make less money than men because of pay inequality and are therefore more likely to qualify for Medicaid. For example, for every \$1 a white man makes on average, white women make 79 cents, black women make 63 cents, and Latina women make 54 cents.

- **We are asking you to contact your legislators to urge them to oppose any legislation that includes work requirements.**

Thank you for taking action.

Thank you for standing with Planned Parenthood.

Visit our website.

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