



PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter - February 24, 2019

Take Action

- **Join us in Helena to oppose the so-called “fetal pain” bill HB 500 in House Judiciary Committee -- We will let you know when the hearing is scheduled.**
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 Wednesday, Rep. Bishop (D-Livingston) is introducing a bill to the House Human Services that would require Montana insurance companies to cover 12 months of birth control. **Call 406-444-4800 to leave a message for your representative, and ask them to vote yes on HB 595!**
- 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 and the Senate Judiciary Committee 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.

- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana is fighting to end the sunset on Medicaid Expansion. **Do you have a story of how the expansion has helped you?** Reach out to [Rachel Pauli](#) about sharing your experience.
- **Are you interested in submitting a Letter to the Editor about Medicaid, abortion rights, or birth control?** Contact [Rachel Pauli](#), and we will help you make your voice heard.
- On Friday, February 22, the House Judiciary Committee heard HB 465, which would add "sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression" to the Montana Human Rights Act and prohibit discrimination in employment and housing. It is time for Montana to grant these protections to the LGBTQ community!

We are asking you to send messages in support of HB 465 to members of the House Judiciary Committee, as well as your legislators by calling 406-444-4800. Ask them to Vote "YES" to move the bill out of committee and open up debate on the House floor.

Sample Messages:

It is fundamentally unfair that hardworking, high-performing employees can be fired from their job just because they are LGBTQ+. Adding sexual orientation and gender identity or expression to the Montana Human Rights Act will ensure that everyone will have the same access to legal protections at the workplace, in housing, and in public accommodations. Please vote yes on HB 465.

All Montanans should be able to earn a living and provide for themselves and their families. LGBTQ+ Montanans should be able to work in our state and be judged only on their performance. Montanans needs this bill to make sure our neighbors have access to equal protections we need to take care of themselves and their families. Please vote yes on HB 465.

- 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!](#)**

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.
 - [*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.
 - [*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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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.
- [HB 595: Require coverage of 12-month supply of prescription contraceptives](#)
Requested by Rep. Laurie Bishop (D-Livingston), this bill would require Montana insurance companies to cover 12 months of prescription birth control.
- [HB 465: Generally revise the Montana Human Rights Act](#)
Requested by Rep. Kim Abbott (D-Helena), this bill would add "sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression" to the Montana Human Rights Act and prohibit discrimination in employment and housing.

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

- 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](#)

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

Visit our website.

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