



**"If bills like this pass in Montana, women will not be as safe, and we know that the complication rate from non-safe abortions or self-induced abortions sometimes can be higher."**

Dr. Joey Banks, MD  
Planned Parenthood of Montana  
Chief Medical Officer

## **This Week at the Montana Legislature February 21, 2021**

### **"If bills like this pass in Montana, women will not be as safe"**

In this look at how House Bills 171, 136, 140, 167, 229, and 337 attempt to restrict reproductive health care, Joey Banks, the chief medical officer for Planned Parenthood of Montana, explains to Montana Public Radio reporter Shaylee Ragar [the typical Montana patient who relies on access to abortion and why that access is crucial to their wellbeing and that of their family.](#)

*"She's a mother that's five hours away and has four kids," she said. "I'm able to mail her the meds. She doesn't have to take off work, she doesn't have to load her smallest kids in a car and drive five hours through a pandemic."*

*Banks said some of her patients are leaving an abusive partner while others are juggling work with homeschooling their kids.*

*"If bills like this pass in Montana, women will not be as safe, and we know that the complication rate from non-safe abortions or self-induced abortions sometimes can be higher."*

Please call your senators today and tell them to vote No on HBs 136, 140, 171, 140, and 229. And please call [or message](#) your representative and tell them to vote No on HB 337!

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## Take Action

### Call your senator and tell them to vote **No** on a bill to legalize discrimination.

[Senate Bill 215, carried by Sen. Carl Glimm \(R\) in Senate District 2](#), would allow any person, business, or other entity to legally discriminate against a person if they claim it burdens their religious expression. This means that individuals could decide that non-discrimination laws, child abuse laws, and domestic violence laws don't apply to them.

Call your senator today at (406) 444-4800 or [send them a message through this online form](#), and tell them to vote No on this extremely dangerous bill. The Legislative Information Desk is open to accept your messages on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Tell your House representative to vote **No** on House Bill 337.

[House Bill 337 is an attempt to give a fertilized egg, a zygote, or a fetus all of the same legal rights that you have as a Montanan.](#) That means zero access to safe abortion and potentially even a ban on common forms of birth control such as the pill, IUDs, or emergency contraception — even for victims of rape or incest.

HB 337 has nothing to do with the health of Montanans. It is a blatant extremist attempt at banning abortion altogether. [Monday morning before the bill heads to the House floor for a vote, please tell your representative that they must vote No on HB 337 and respect our private health care decisions!](#)

### Join Montana Women Vote for a phone bank on Wednesday, Feb. 24 — 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Our friends at [Montana Women Vote](#) are hosting a Legislative Phone Bank this week and we encourage you to join! They'll be calling Montanans to talk about issues and teaching folks how they can get involved during the legislative session. [Sign up for the virtual phone bank here!](#)

### Have you called your senator and asked them to vote **No** on House Bills 136, 140, 167, and 171, and **No** on Senate Bill 99?

Call or email your senator and tell them to vote No on each of these attempts to attack sexual and reproductive health in Montana! The Legislative Information Desk can be reached at (406) 444-4800 and is open to accept your messages on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Call on Gov. Gianforte to stop the anti-trans bill, HB 112.

House Bill 112 is harmful to trans youth and to all students. Not only does this kind of discrimination go against Montana values, it would also put \$484 million of federal education funds at stake!

Please call Gov. Gianforte at 406-444-3111 and ask him to stop this bill. [You can also send him a message here!](#)

Speaking of HB 112, are you an educator in Montana? Or a coach, an administrator, or a support staff member? [Join us in opposing House Bill 112 by signing this letter to support trans kids.](#) And please share widely with your networks!



Interested in writing an LTE for your local newspaper, testifying on a bill, or learning how else to make your voice heard during the 67th Legislative Session? Contact Julia, 406-561-7649 or ([info@ppamt.org](mailto:info@ppamt.org))!

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## Bills We're Fighting This Week

**[HB 337: Constitutional amendment to define 'person'](#)** by Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), House District 68, would change the definition of 'person' in Montana. *Because the change would define "fertilization or conception" as the beginning of life, it would give a fertilized egg or zygote the same rights that you have as a Montanan. HB 337 could even ban common forms of birth control such as the pill, IUDs, and emergency contraception — even for victims of rape or incest.* As an amendment to our state constitution, it requires a 2/3 majority 'Yes' vote from the legislature as a whole in order to be placed on the ballot for voters to ultimately decide in the next general election. **[Tell House members to vote No on this extremist attempt to ban abortion in Montana!](#)**

**SB 215: Religious Freedom Restoration Act** by Sen. Carl Glimm (R), Senate District 2, would allow any person, corporation, or other entity to use religion as an excuse to discriminate against and harm others. Examples of this bill's dangerous

potential include a religiously-affiliated school firing a teacher for becoming pregnant while not married, an employer justifying racial discrimination, a pharmacy refusing to fill birth control prescriptions, or a school counselor refusing to help a gay student. As members of the Free & Fair Coalition, we are joining with partner organizations to fight this baseless attack that would have an outsized impact on LGBTQ+ Montanans. This bill was passed in Senate Judiciary Committee last week so will head to the Senate floor for a debate and vote very soon. **Contact your senator ASAP and tell them to vote No on SB 215!**

**SB 99: [Requiring parents to opt-in to sexual education in schools, Prohibiting abortion providers from offering education by Sen. Cary Smith \(R\), Senate District 27](#)**, as amended, would ban the use of educational resources offered by abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood of Montana. Comprehensive sex education covers everything from birth control and abstinence to STD prevention and safe, healthy relationships. Our young people must have every opportunity to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions.

**[HB 136: Establish pain-capable unborn child protection act by Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway \(R\), House District 22](#)**, would ban abortions at 20 weeks, regardless of the health of the woman or fetus, and criminalize doctors who provide them. It would also potentially endanger women by letting courts decide whether or not to keep their names private.

**HB 140: Requiring the provision of information before performance of an abortion by Rep. Amy Regier (R), House District 6**, claims to provide women with more information, but ultimately seeks to shame and dissuade them from exercising their constitutional right to abortion.

**HB 167: Referendum to adopt the Montana Born-Alive Infant Protection Act by Rep. Matt Regier (R), House District 4**, uses inflammatory language to drive a false narrative and stigmatize abortion in Montana. As a referendum, it puts women's health and privacy up to a vote with the ultimate goal of banning abortion altogether.

**HB 171: Adopt the Montana Abortion-Inducing Drug Risk Protocol Act by Rep. Sharon Greef (R), House District 88**, would keep Montanans from accessing medication abortion, delaying access to health care and creating barriers to care — especially for those in rural areas.

**HB 229: Prohibiting health insurance plans offered through the Health Insurance Exchange from covering abortion services** [by Rep. Jane Gillette \(R\), House District 64](#), would mean that people who rely on the Affordable Care Act's Health Insurance Exchange would not have any options to get coverage for abortion. Banning this coverage from Exchange plans would place safe, legal abortion out of reach for the lowest income families in Montana. ***Stay tuned to our social media channels — [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) — for updates on how to take action!***

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## Legislation We're Watching

**HB 112: Require interscholastic athletes to participate under sex assigned at birth** by Rep. John Fuller (R), House District 8, would ban transgender athletes from participating in sports in Montana public schools. *Please call Gov. Gianforte at (406) 444-3111 and ask him to stop this dangerous, discriminatory bill!* [You can also send him a message here!](#)

**[SB 245: Implement medical ethics and diversity act requested by Sen. Keith Regier \(R\), Senate District 3](#)**, would make it legal for health care workers to refuse care, for example a receptionist could legally refuse to admit a trans patient to the hospital. This bill was heard on Friday in Senate Public Health, Welfare & Safety Committee and we are following its progress.

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**Questions about these bills or how you can help us fight them? Contact Julia, ([julia.maxon@ppmontana.org](mailto:julia.maxon@ppmontana.org))!**

[Visit our website.](#)

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