

PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter

April 14, 2019

Take Action

HB 658, which would continue Medicaid expansion, is stalled in the Senate.

This is a compromise policy that protects coverage and would allow Medicaid expansion to continue -- meaning nearly 1 in 10 Montanans would continue to have access to vital preventive and mental health services.

Tomorrow, Monday 4/15, is the final day that the Montana Senate can debate House Bill 658.

This is our last chance to make our voices heard and protect the Medicaid program. This – people's health care – is not a game, and we are urging supporters to show up at the capitol tomorrow and contact their senators.

- **Join us tomorrow at 11:00 AM at the capitol to pack the Senate gallery with supporters. Show up in your Medicaid or Planned Parenthood shirt to encourage the Montana Senate to vote YES on HB 658 to protect the health care of 96,000 Montanans.**
- Can't make it in person?
Call 877-240-0271 first thing Monday morning (the line is staffed beginning at 7:30AM) to remind your senator that 100,000 Montanans are

counting on them to vote YES on HB 658.

HB 500 will soon head to the Senate floor for its final two votes.

This is an 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.

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

Here is what you can do to stop this dangerous legislation:

- **Send a message to your senator** 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.
- Text this link to your friends, and ask them to send a message, too! bit.ly/NOHB500

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 both the Senate and the House and will next head to the Governor's desk.

SB 354: The Montana Born-Alive Infant Protection Act

Proposed by Sen. Albert Olszewski (R-Kalispell), SB 354 is an inflammatory tactic driving a misleading narrative that seeks only to ultimately ban abortion. The bill language is intentionally vague and would criminalize doctors who are helping patients in tragic circumstances. It's important to note that a health care professional would always provide appropriate and necessary medical care if there was a rare case where an infant was born alive after an abortion. This bill passed out of the Senate and House Judiciary Committee and will next head to the House floor for final votes.

HB 302: Constitutional amendment to define person

VICTORY! Rep. DeVries' (R-Montana City) "personhood" bill, has again failed to receive enough support to pass. This dangerous bill would have banned all abortion in Montana. Thank you to legislators and our supporters who stood with our patients and with Planned Parenthood. The bill would have amended the Montana constitution so that "person" would apply to all stages of development, including fertilization or conception. As such, the bill would have impacted access to abortion, various contraception methods, and in vitro fertilization.

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. HB 500 has passed out

of the House and Senate Judiciary Committee, and will next be heard and voted on by the full Senate. Make time this week to leave a message for your senator to vote No on this abhorrent bill.

Recommended Reading

Planned Parenthood of Montana president Martha Stahl penned a letter in the Billings Gazette celebrating the voices of Montanans like you speaking up to support Medicaid Expansion and to urge No votes on harmful bills such as HB 500 and HB 302.

Have you heard the news about the Trump Administration's Domestic Gag Rule? [Learn more here about what it means for patients and how you can work with Planned Parenthood to stop it.](#)

Our friends at the Montana Budget & Policy Center have shared [this great blog post about the ins and outs of HB 2, the legislature's proposed budget for the state of Montana.](#) It's a great breakdown of what's in it, what's been cut, and how it differs from Governor Bullock's proposed budget.

Thank You!

Thanks to all those who joined us in Helena, Billings, and Missoula this spring to help Planned Parenthood of Montana Celebrate 50 Years of Care.

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

Visit our website.

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