

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana Legislative Newsletter

April 21, 2019

Thank You!

- A great thanks to all those who joined us in rallying for Medicaid Expansion. It's because of stories and voices like yours that this bill is headed to the governor's desk to be signed into law, lifting the June sunset date.

Take Action

- This legislative session, there have been various attacks on Montanan's rights and access to reproductive health care, including abortion.

HB 500, SB 354, and SB 100 are attempts to chip away at Montanans' rights and access to safe, legal abortion here in Montana and interfere with the trusted relationship between a patient and their doctor.

The rhetoric surrounding these bills has come from anti-women's health legislators who have made false claims about abortion and while doing so, dishonored Indigenous people, people of color, and people with lower-incomes, all of whom are disproportionately affected by access to reproductive health care, and shamed

people from seeking safe, legal abortion.

Unfortunately, these bills are making their way to the Governor's desk.

We are asking our supporters to [contact Governor Bullock by clicking here](#).

Ask him to *stop the attacks*.

We won't go back!

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 was passed by the legislature and is headed to the governor's desk. Join us in asking him to veto this proposed policy.

- [*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 the governor asking him to vote No on this abhorrent bill.

Recommended Reading

- Planned Parenthood Federation of America's President, Dr. Leana Wen, was chosen as one of [Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People](#).
- 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.

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

Visit our website.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana
1116 Grand Ave
Suite 201
Billings, MT 59102
United States