

PPAMT Legislative Session Newsletter

April 7, 2019

Take Action

- Rep. DeVries' (R-Jefferson City) "personhood" bill HB 302 is on its way to the Senate floor for debate and final votes. 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.

Send a message telling your senator to vote No on this bill and to protect Montanans' right to access safe, legal abortion.

- After a hard fight in the House, HB 500 moves to Senate Judiciary Committee for a hearing on Wednesday at 9 a.m.. This 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.

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

- While Rep. Mary Caferro's (D-Helena) HB 425 Medicaid bill did not ultimately pass, HB 658 from Rep. Ed Buttrey (R-Great Falls) continues to be in play. While we are disappointed with aspects of the bill, we continue to fight alongside our allies in the Capitol to address its shortcomings and push for it to better and more fairly serve all Montanans.
- 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 been heard in House Judiciary Committee, but has not yet received a committee vote.

- [*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 is will be heard in House Judiciary Committee this Wednesday at 8 a.m..

- [*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 and our partners with the Montana Reproductive Rights Coalition presented passionate opposition in a hostile Senate Judiciary Committee hearing and the bill will soon be presented on the Senate floor for debate and its final votes. We urge you to stand with us and to tell your state senator to vote No on HB 302! Again, the number is (406) 444-4800.

- [*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 moved to the Senate, where it will be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. Make time this week to leave a message for your senator to vote No on this abhorrent bill.

Bills to Oppose

- [*HB 146: Establish laws regarding sanctuary cities in Montana*](#)

Introduced by Rep. Holmlund (R-Miles City), HB 146 is an anti-immigrant bill that would prohibit localities from making their own decision about what to prioritize to maintain public

safety. This bill is an extension of President Trump's push for draconian anti-immigrant policies and practices. When local law enforcement are forced to act as federal immigration agents, immigrants and their families often forgo essential services, including healthcare, out of fear of deportation, harassment, and scrutiny. HB 146 passed out of Senate Judiciary Committee and is heading to the Senate Floor. Call and tell your senator you don't want the state controlling decisions that should be left up to local communities.

Revenue Bills and Economic Justice

- [*HB 290: Require child support cooperation for food stamp \(SNAP\) eligibility*](#)

Introduced by Rep. Peggy Webb (R-Billings), this bill will hurt Montana families and children by requiring cooperation with child support enforcement for food stamp eligibility. Taking away food assistance would force low-income parents to make the impossible choice between the food they need and the basic health and safety of themselves and their children. Unfortunately, HB 290 was passed by the legislature and is heading to the Governor's desk. We hope the Governor will recognize that this bill does nothing to help lift low-income Montanans out of poverty and use his veto pen to reject HB 290.

Help Planned Parenthood of Montana Celebrate 50 Years of Care

- [Missoula Planned Parenthood of Montana 50th Anniversary Celebration](#)

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

5:00 PM VIP Reception

6:00 PM General Admission

University of Montana Ballroom || 32 Campus Dr., Missoula,
MT

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 for standing with Planned
Parenthood Advocates of Montana.**

Visit our website.

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