



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

Act. No matter what.

Greetings Supporters!

PPAMT, PPMT, and our partner organizations have some [great events coming up](#). And as usual, there is always something happening at the Capitol. **We'd like to invite you to participate in whatever way you can!**

HB498: Establish the Menstrual Equity Act – Sponsored by Rep. Kerr-Carpenter

If passed, the Menstrual Equity Bill will require that period products be made free and readily accessible to individuals in public schools, shelters, and state corrections facilities. Menstrual products are a basic necessity, like toilet paper, yet schools and corrections facilities rarely provide them for free. It will also prohibit retail barriers to purchasing menstrual products.

Speak out on this bill so we can ensure that everyone who needs pads and tampons in these settings has access to them!

Over a dozen states have passed laws requiring free menstrual products in schools or correctional facilities.



It's time that Montana followed suit.

HOW CAN I HELP?

HB 498's hearing is scheduled for **TOMORROW, February 17th at 3PM** in the House Human Services Committee. If you are unable to join in-person and want to testify via Zoom and/or submit written comments, you must register by **5PM TODAY**.

[Go to: Have your say during the 2023 Legislative Session:](#)

- Click on **Request to Testify Remotely or Upload Your Testimony**
- Scroll down to *Select the Bill* and select **HB 498**
- Select your position on the bill as **PROPONENT**
- **Fill out your personal information**
- Then you can either type your comments in the text box provided, upload a document, or you can leave those blank and just sign-up to testify virtually over Zoom. You will be sent a link to the hearing.

If you plan to testify in-person, you do not need to pre-register.

SJ11: Joint Resolution defining law - Sponsored by Sen. K. Regier

This bill seeks to clarify that the legislature shall be the body that determines the law, not the Supreme Court. This is a direct attack on the validity of the court system, our judicial branch, and one of the largest 'checks and balances' our system of government has. In order to maintain a separation of powers and protect the judicial branch, [please join us in opposing this join resolution](#). SJ11 is scheduled for **tomorrow 2/17** in Senate Judiciary. If you would like to testify virtually, you must sign up by 5pm TODAY.

SB315: Provide for comprehensive sex, gender and sexuality education in public schools - Sponsored by Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

This bill encourages school districts in Montana to adopt programs for comprehensive, age-appropriate personal health and sexual health education in line with national standards and recommendations.

Sex education is education. It gives young people developmentally appropriate, medically accurate information, and provides answers to their questions about sex and relationships, without shame or judgment.

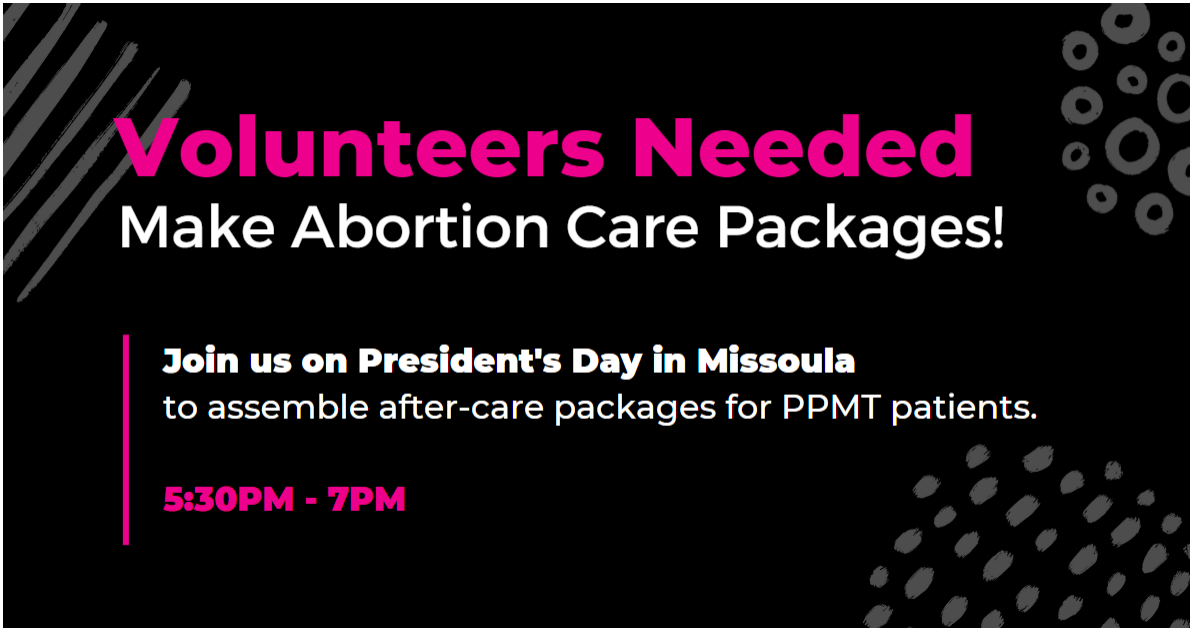
We urge you to [testify as a proponent, submit testimony](#), or [contact the Senate Education Committee to ask members to VOTE YES on SB315](#). This bill will be heard on **Monday, February 20th at 3PM**, so if you want to submit written testimony electronically or sign up to testify virtually, you need to do so by **5PM Sunday, 2/19**.

SB311: Reduce the number of associate judges on the Supreme Court – Sponsored by Sen. Barry Usher

This bill was heard yesterday in Senate Judiciary and is an attempt to dismantle our state judicial branch. We are working with partners to oppose this bill in order to protect the fairness and balance of our courts. **Please [contact the Senate Judiciary Committee](#) and urge a NO VOTE.**

[Read the Helena IR article on this bill.](#)

Upcoming Events

A black banner with pink and white text. The text reads: "Volunteers Needed Make Abortion Care Packages!". Below this, it says "Join us on President's Day in Missoula to assemble after-care packages for PPMT patients." and "5:30PM - 7PM". The banner has decorative elements like grey brushstrokes and circles in the corners.

Volunteers Needed Make Abortion Care Packages!

Join us on President's Day in Missoula
to assemble after-care packages for PPMT patients.

5:30PM - 7PM

(click on image to register)

A dark blue banner with a rainbow-colored silhouette of the Montana State Capitol building. The text reads: "Join Us February 20", "EQUALITY DAY AT THE CAPITOL", and "Celebrate LGBTQ+ rights & legislative wins Gather with LGBTQ+ folks and allies Connect with your legislators".

Join Us February 20

EQUALITY DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Celebrate LGBTQ+ rights & legislative wins
Gather with LGBTQ+ folks and allies
Connect with your legislators

Deadline: Equality Day in Helena!

Join Montana's Free and Fair Coalition at the Capitol on **Monday, February 20th starting at 10AM** for a day of learning, lobbying, and connecting with other LGBTQ+ community members and allies from across the state.

REGISTER BY 5PM TODAY if you'd like a lunch provided or need help **coordinating transportation/can offer a ride.**

Click on the image to see the Facebook event!

[Register Here!](#)



Charity Pint Night in Missoula!

Join PPMT and PPAMT staff at The Dram Shop Central on February 21st from 5 - 8 PM. A portion of the proceeds from every beer purchased will benefit Planned Parenthood of Montana to support honest, expert sexual and reproductive health services. Also look forward to a raffle with prizes generously donated from local businesses. Share the event page with your friends and raise a glass for reproductive rights!

Facebook Event



Public Comment Trainings with Forward Montana

Join Forward Montana on Thursday 2/23 in Bozeman, Missoula, and Billings to discuss turning our stories into political action, whether that be through testifying before the Montana State Legislature or City Council, writing an LTE, or emailing your representative! **You'll get the chance to practice writing public comment, testimony and more**, plus the chance to ask all your questions and connect with other passionate community members.

Register Here!

Thank you for your support and for taking action! We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

In solidarity,
Jessica Lahr (she/hers)
Community Organizer