



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

Act. No matter what.

4.3.23

## Montanans deserve civil discussions from the Montana Legislature!

Last week, Democrats in the Senate Judiciary Committee [took the bold action of walking out of a hostile Senate Judiciary hearing on abortion care](#). By walking out, these legislators rejected the repeated use of inaccurate and graphic language, statements that did not relate to the bill, and misinformation about medical procedures from people who are not qualified to provide that information.

**Please tell Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate President Jason Ellsworth (R-Hamilton) that [Montanans deserve respectful debate, especially when the topics are contentious](#).**

Walkouts are extremely rare due to legislators' dedication to conduct civil, informative hearings, but on Tuesday those limits were pushed too far. Senators Jen Gross (D-Billings) and Andrea Olsen (D-Missoula) objected several times to graphic language that repeated propaganda from anti-abortion extremists, and mischaracterized the safe and legal dilation and evacuation (D&E) procedure.

Those objections were repeatedly dismissed and overruled. The situation reached its boiling point when Sen. Daniel Emrich (R-Great Falls) insinuated that religious groups and denominations that support abortion rights are equivalent to those that conduct Satanic rituals.

Before leaving, Sen. Olsen said, "We have gone beyond opinion. We are now in a decorum issue. We are, as a committee, continuing to bully, shame and inflame this debate. And that is just not acceptable for me as a member of this committee." Her request for professional, respectful discussion was dismissed.

Please tell these Republicans that healthy debate isn't possible in the presence of unchecked hostility. Montanans deserve courteous dialogue and decorum.

[Click here to personalize a message](#) that will be sent directly to these legislators.

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## Reminder: Join us for a rally on Friday!



### [Rally for Sexual & Reproductive Health Care on April 7th](#)

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana and [our partners in the MTSRHC](#) are hosting a rally at the Capitol Rotunda at noon. Let's come together to rally in defense of our fundamental rights to sexual and reproductive health, and bodily autonomy! Lunch will be provided, and stipends for gas and child care will be provided. Please [RSVP for the event here](#) and indicate if you can provide a ride, are looking for a ride, need child care, etc. Reach out to [info@mtsrhc.org](mailto:info@mtsrhc.org) with questions.

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Be sure to follow us on social media (especially Instagram) for more frequent updates on bills and events!

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