



## Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

**Act. No matter what.**

### To our loyal supporters...

Here are the bills on our radar this week. Things are moving fast, and every message to your Representative, call to the Capitol switchboard (406.444.4800), or message to a committee counts! We are so appreciative and grateful for the amount of folks turning out to testify on the bills we've been watching so far! Take 5 minutes today to contact these Legislators and stand up for reproductive health and the LGBTQ+ community!

#### **HB498: Establish a Menstrual Equity Act - Sponsored by Rep. Kerr-Carpenter**

This bill was heard on Friday and if enacted, would require free and accessible menstruation products in schools, shelters and prisons. **Please [contact House Human Services committee](#) and urge a DO PASS.**

#### **SB315: Provide for Comprehensive Sex, Gender and Sexuality Education in Public Schools - Sponsored by Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell**

This bill, which was heard yesterday, would encourage school districts in Montana to adopt programs for comprehensive, age-appropriate personal health and sexual health education in line with national standards and recommendations. **We urge you to [contact the Senate Education Committee to ask members to VOTE YES on SB315.](#)**

#### **HB570: Provide Civil Penalty for Interfering with Abortion Access - Sponsored by Rep. Marler**

This is another proactive bill that is being heard **TOMORROW at 7AM in House Judiciary.** This bill would provide a civil penalty of \$500 for an individual who impedes or obstructs another person's ability to access abortion care. **Please [contact the House Judiciary Committee](#) and urge a DO PASS on this bill.**

#### **HB544: Provide Requirements for Coverage of Abortion Under Medicaid & CHIP - Sponsored by Rep. Gillette**

This hearing is scheduled for **TOMORROW, 2/22 at 7AM in House Judiciary.** This is a restrictive bill targeting people on Medicaid who may need access to abortion. For an abortion to be covered as medically necessary, a physician would need certify that "a patient has a physical condition that would be significantly aggravated by the pregnancy, or a severe mental illness or intellectual disability that would be significantly aggravated by the pregnancy" ***There are no mental health or non-physical justifications a provider could use for deeming an abortion as medical necessity.*** If you would like to testify virtually, **[sign up by 5pm TODAY.](#)** Please send a message to members of the **[House Judiciary Committee](#)** and urge them to VOTE NO on this bill.

**HB575: Prohibit Abortion of Unborn Viable Children – Sponsored by Rep. Sheldon-Galloway**

This bill is scheduled for 8AM on 2/23 in House Judiciary. This bill poses a serious threat to pregnant people's health, ignoring individual needs and circumstances and seeking to ban abortions at a time during pregnancy when pregnant people and their families face especially difficult circumstances. We should all be able to make our own personal, private health care decisions without politicians standing in the way, no matter where we live. **Please [contact the House Judiciary Committee](#) and urge them to vote NO.**

**SB99: Gender Affirming Healthcare Ban for Minors- Sponsored by Sen. John Fuller**

This bill has been transmitted to the House, but is not yet scheduled for a floor hearing. **Contact your [Representative](#) and [ask them to vote NO.](#)**

**HB359: Prohibit Minors from Attending Drag Shows**

This bill also passed out of House Judiciary and will be scheduled for 2nd Reading on the House Floor soon. **Please contact your Representative and [ask them to vote NO](#) on this bill.**

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## Upcoming Events

**PINTS FOR  
PLANNED  
PARENTHOOD!**

**THE  
DRAM  
SHOP**

**JOIN US IN  
MISSOULA**  
FEB. 21ST  
5 - 8 PM

Montana

### TONIGHT in Missoula!

Join PPMT and PPAMT staff at The Dram Shop Central on tonight 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!](#)

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Legislative sessions can feel daunting and defeating, so remember to take time to rest, take care of yourselves, and check in with those in our communities.

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