



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

Act. No matter what.

Legislative Update 3.29.23

What we're up against...

Things are moving very quickly, once again. There have been many moments of feeling frustrated, hurt, and angry at the amount of bills introduced attacking our bodily autonomy and access to health care. Especially when we are given insufficient notice to inform supporters so you can take action. We appreciate every one of you who has made a call, sent a message, or testified (even when you had to wait two hours from the beginning of the hearing before it was your turn to speak).

Every email to your Senator, call to the Capitol switchboard (406.444.4800), or online message sent to a committee matters! Please take a few minutes to contact these Legislators and stand up for reproductive health!

HB 862: Prohibit the use of public funds for abortion

Sponsored by Rep. Mike Hopkins

Prohibiting any public funding to be used for abortion targets low-income Montanans and restricts their ability to obtain the healthcare they need. People deserve access to a safe and legal procedure, no matter their socio-economic status. HB 862 is scheduled for 2nd Reading in the House tomorrow. Contact [your Representative](#) and [urge them to vote NO](#) on this unfair bill.

HB 968: Revise abortion laws concerning parental consultation

Sponsored by Rep/ Amy Regier

We were given very short notice on this bill which will be heard tomorrow morning at 8 AM in House Judiciary. This bill is attempting to amend parts of a 2013 law that was found unconstitutional, and has never gone into effect. Most minors DO involve a parent in their abortion care decisions. Minors who do not involve their parents in their decisions typically have good reasons for doing so, including their own safety. Contact the House Judiciary committee and [tell them to vote NO on HB 968](#).

HB 937: Abortion Clinic Licensure

Sponsored by Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

This bill would add [unnecessary, expensive requirements of abortion providers](#) – and potentially cost Montana tax payers millions of dollars. If it were to pass, health clinics that provide abortions would be the only facilities regulated solely based on the type of care they provide. HB 937 was heard in House Judiciary today. [Contact that committee and tell them to vote NO](#) on Sheldon-Galloway's bill.

SB 154: Define the right to privacy to clarify no right to abortion

Sponsored by Sen. Keith Regier

Bills like this, that are known to be unconstitutional, are a waste of the taxpayers time and money. [This bill will be heard in House Judiciary Friday 3/31 at 8 AM.](#) Please send a message to the committee and [urge them to vote NO on SB 154.](#)

HB 359, the bill attacking drag performances and performers, was scheduled for this Friday, but has now been postponed. Please keep a lookout on our social media for updates regarding when this will be rescheduled.

Upcoming Events!



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. We have been fighting over a dozen bills attacking abortion access and the LGBTQ+ community this session, so we are gathering to say enough is enough! 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 reach out to info@mtsrhc.org for more info.



Legislative Decompression Session March 30th, 6-7 PM in Missoula

MTSRHC member, the [University of Montana's Gender Equity Resource Center \(GERC\)](#), will be hosting a Legislature Decompression Session, lead by other members of MTSRHC. This is an opportunity for folks to vent and/or share hope, and ask questions about bills. The GERC has opened the event up to the public.



Gender Spectrum Rally in Billings!

Friday is Trans Day of Visibility (TDOV). In tandem with events happening nation-wide, this rally will begin at 5 PM. Attendees will meet at the Yellowstone County Court House.

Facebook Event



Also on Friday in **Missoula** there will be a **March for Queer and Trans Youth Autonomy** organized by the Jeannette Rankin Peach Center. Meet at the Missoula Courthouse at 5 PM.

Facebook Event



Legislative Decompression Gathering in Helena for Trans Day of Visibility!

Finally, also on **Friday, March 31st**, there will be a decompression event at the Holter Museum of Art from **1:30 – 3:30 PM**. This event is for trans, nonbinary, Two-Spirit, and other gender-diverse individuals. We love our allies, **but please be respectful of this space and stay home if you are cis** 😊 Lunch will be provided. Please reach out to Chloe (chloe@forwardmontana.org) if you have questions or if plan to attend.

If you are looking to [take action on TDOV as an ally](#), please contact your representatives and senators about standing up for the trans community. Write a letter to the editor. [Share info about TDOV on social media](#). Support trans-led organizations and trans artists. Educate your friends and family about the harmful rhetoric that is accompanying this legislative session (in Montana and across the county), and [urge them to take action too](#). And don't forget to check in with the trans, non-binary, and Two Spirit people in your life.

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