



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

Act. No matter what.

4.22.23

[If you haven't already heard](#), Montana's first transgender woman legislator is being silenced, and so are the thousands of Montanans that elected her!

House Speaker Matt Regier (R-Kalispell) is invoking a House rule that allows him to arbitrarily, indefinitely, and unofficially censure Rep. Zooey Zephyr (D-Missoula). Regier states that this is due to perceived violations of decorum regarding statements she made a few days ago in objection to SB 99 and amendments that Gov. Gianforte offered.

Regier's decision was supported by a party line vote in the Rules Committee after House Minority Leader Kim Abbott objected to Regier refusing to recognize Zephyr for discussion on SB 458. This silencing of Rep. Zephyr is the latest development in ongoing dramatic acts of political retribution against Montana's only elected transgender woman. **This is also an attack on the fundamental principles of democracy by violating Zephyr's First Amendment rights and negating the representation of her entire district.**

Please take action by [adding your name to this petition](#) or by [sending a personalized message](#) to Speaker Matt Regier telling him this hostile behavior is unacceptable and it diminishes the quality of our democracy and the dignity of the Montana legislature.

You can also call the Capitol switchboard on Monday morning at 406-444-4800 and politely leave a message for your Representative and House Speaker Regier.

Thank you to Montana Human Rights Network and the Western Montana LGBTQIA+ Center for some of the language we used in this email!

Here are some organizational statements of support for Rep. Zephyr:

[Free & Fair Coalition](#)

[Montana American Indian Caucus](#)

[Montana Budget & Policy Center](#)

More Bills That We Need Vetoed

Please Contact Governor Gianforte and ask him to veto the following bills:

SB154 – Right to Privacy Prohibits Right to Abortion - sponsored by Rep. K. Regier

- This bill is two sentences long and simply states that within the Constitution's Privacy Provision, the Right to Abortion shall be prohibited.
- It's blatantly unconstitutional, but with attacks on the Judiciary, it's a paralleled attack.

HB 303 – Religious/Ethic/Moral Refusal for Medical Care - sponsored by Rep. A. Regier

- This would allow any medical provider, medical institution and/or insurer to deny care to any person for any reason based on religious, ethical or moral reasons. It's a very broadly written bill that could allow any person who works at a facility to deny care.
- Abortion is the only procedure specifically carved out in this bill.

HB 575 – Prohibit Abortion of Unborn Viable Children - Sponsored by Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

- This bill seeks to require a physician or physician assistant to put in writing the determination of viability and provide that to the patient.
- This bill has references to code that are unenforceable and currently enjoined.

HB 625 – Infant Safety & Care Act - Sponsored by Rep. Seekins-Crowe

- This bill's language is *very* similar to the language used in LR-131.
- Laws like this have always been about politicians pushing inflammatory rhetoric, not about health care.
- This bill is redundant of law already in the Montana code.

There are three ways you can contact the Governor:

- **Call and leave a message for him early next week between 8AM and 5PM at 406.444.3111** *Note: you cannot leave a voicemail, so if you are not able to reach a human when you call, either call back, or use these other two methods below.
- Send him an email at governor@mt.gov
- [Use this portal](#) to send a message to his office.

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