



MONTANANS FOR CHOICE TAKE ACTION

Gender Equality, Reproductive Rights, & Healthcare Access

2025 MONTANA LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



ACTIVATING OUR COMMUNITY, ADVANCING OUR RIGHTS

Illustration by Anna Thane, inspired by a photo from Getty Images

Our Work This Session

From January 6th to April 30th, Montana legislators gathered to introduce, debate, and vote on 1,759 bills. From day one, Montanans for Choice Take Action (MT4CTA) closely followed proposed and pending legislation. We collaborated with partner organizations to interpret, strategize around, and inform Montana constituents about proposed legislation. We worked hard to bring you timely and relevant information about bills affecting your bodily autonomy. Together with Montanans across the state, we opposed bills that restricted our rights and supported bills that expanded access to vital healthcare services.



Montana Lawmakers by Montana Free Press

In total, **we tracked 48 bills related to abortion, gender equality, LGBTQ2S+ rights, bodily autonomy, and/or access to healthcare and health education.** Only 15 (31%) of these bills were considered favorable, primarily for the opportunity they presented to protect or expand access to healthcare. One of the biggest wins of the session came early on with the passage of HB 245 (Rep. Buttrey) which allows for Medicaid expansion to continue indefinitely. We also saw the passage of two positive birth justice bills: SB 319 (Sen. Neumann) which expands access to doula services and HB 475 (Rep. Reavis) which prohibits the unnecessary use of restraints when someone is incarcerated while giving birth.

We were vigilant in our opposition to harmful bills that sought to limit rights, restrict access to lifesaving healthcare, or laws that targeted the most vulnerable Montanans. We mounted some of our strongest opposition to bills that attempted to limit access to abortion or exploited loopholes left by CI-128. We raised awareness about deceitful practices and harmful disinformation spread by those who oppose abortion access.

We were outraged to see many Montana legislators follow the extremist national trend of targeting or seeking to erase transgender and gender expansive individuals. This session alone, lawmakers passed 10 bills that limited access to transgender healthcare, promoted discrimination and harassment of gender nonbinary individuals, or generally ostracized and isolated individuals that don't conform to conventional gender norms. Too many lawmakers focused on restricting people's rights while ignoring the critical needs of everyday Montanans.

We are grateful for all those who took action with us, and we must continue working together to hold these lawmakers accountable. Read on to learn about the wins we accomplished together and opportunities to **take action** in the future!

LEARN MORE

Want to take a deeper dive into our work this session? Visit our website:

mtchoicetakeaction.org/2025-legislative-session

- ✦ Our full 2025 legislative summary report
- ✦ All the bills MT4CTA tracked and took action on during the 2025 session
- ✦ A report card showing how your legislators voted on bodily autonomy issues
- ✦ Helpful guides to take action and how to hold your representatives accountable

The 2025 Session by the Numbers

- + **1759** bills introduced by Montana lawmakers
- + **48** bills tracked by MT4CTA, related to health and bodily autonomy, including:
 - ✗ **9** restricting access to abortion and spreading harmful disinformation
 - ✗ **17** targeting transgender and LGBTQ2S+ individuals
 - ✗ **7** limiting healthcare coverage, service availability, or accurate health information
 - ✓ **15** strengthening reproductive rights, affirming gender equality, or expanding access to healthcare
- + **35** bills for which we provided oral or written testimony
- + **14** Legislative Updates & Action Alerts shared with our constituents
- + **12** Montana-based organizations we partnered with to strategize, educate, and share calls to action
- + **4** reports and briefs produced to educate Montanans, including our policymakers, about timely topics, including Unregulated Pregnancy Centers (UPCs).

Wins Worth Celebrating

Together with partners and Montanans throughout the state, we advocated for expanded access to healthcare services and for the rights of LGBTQ2S+ individuals, while protecting legal abortion care and exposing attempts to deceive the public. We're celebrating several significant wins:

- + **7 bills passed to expand access to and improve healthcare**, including important reproductive healthcare like doula support.
- + **7 harmful bills tabled after their first committee hearing.**
- + **12 harmful bills defeated on the House or Senate floor**, including the first anti-abortion bill to die on the Senate floor in over 25 years.
- + **8 harmful bills that were requested or drafted but were never introduced** in the face of community opposition.
- + **Increased public awareness of anti-abortion tactics** including travel bans, pregnancy surveillance, unregulated pregnancy centers, so-called 'abortion reversal,' and attempts to codify rights of an embryo or a fetus, known as fetal personhood.
- + **Increased knowledge and political will among legislators** to oppose abortion bans, including changes in voting behavior of anti-abortion Republicans.



2025 MT Capitol by Montana Free Press

Shifting Political Will

During the session, conservative lawmakers increasingly expressed a reluctance to support bills that would restrict access to abortion care.

“...some of these bills that we’ve been bringing up here, I just have to admit, I’m really uncomfortable with.”

Rep. Tracy Sharp, R-Polson, before motioning to table HB609 in committee, which would have created a felony for “abortion trafficking.”

“We just simply didn’t support the bill. The penalties on the mother were too egregious.”

Rep. Braxton Mitchell, R-Columbia Falls, when asked by the press why he voted to table HB609.

These statements are a response to the powerful stories of everyday Montanans offered through oral testimony during the bill’s first committee hearing.

Take Action with Us!

Montanans deserve better representation from lawmakers and policies that match the priorities and values of their constituents. We need you to continue **taking action** to protect the freedoms of all Montanans. .

Hold lawmakers accountable for their votes

- ✦ Check out our 2025 Legislative Scorecard to see how lawmakers voted on Bodily Autonomy & Healthcare Access.
- ✦ Contact your reps to thank them if they were a champion, or to let them know how they need to improve.

Help elect lawmakers that support your rights

- ✦ Think your Representative or Senator needs to be replaced? Help identify someone in your district who would be a great leader – maybe it’s you!
- ✦ Found a candidate you believe in? Work or volunteer for their campaign



A note from our Executive Director

Greetings! It has already been a big year for Montanans for Choice Take Action, as we relaunched the organization and immediately engaged in the legislative session. And although the session is over, we know that we must remain vigilant. We are paying attention to the continued attacks from extremist politicians on our fundamental human rights, at both the federal and state level. We are educating the public and our policymakers about the harms of abortion bans, the need to support all reproductive outcomes, and the importance of protecting our state courts in order to protect our constitutional rights. **But we cannot do this work without your support. Our organization relies on your support, just as our democracy relies on our participation.** In whatever way you are able, we ask you to JOIN US in our collective pursuit of a more just future where bodily autonomy, reproductive freedom, and healthcare access are guaranteed for every single person.

Thank you for being here. Let’s all rest, recharge, and resist together. Onwards!