



ANTI-ABORTION & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

SB 444 - Prevents Access to Abortion *Hammer*

Passed Senate on 4/3 - Scheduled for House Floor @ 9a.m on 4/16

- This bill allows health care workers to prevent access to health care by not participating in abortions when necessary.
- Arkansas is an abortion ban state with the exception to save the life of the pregnant person. By allowing health care workers to not do their jobs in emergency situations this puts pregnant people at risk of dying from medical complications.

HB 1678 - Establishes Crime and Civil Liability for Abortion Medication *Long*

Passed through House Committee - Not Scheduled for floor activity yet

- This bill criminalizes abortion medication to be equivalent to a scheduled narcotic, with no evidence to establish that abortion medication should be treated equivalently. Abortion medication is non-addictive and has no potential of abuse, thus it does not meet the criteria to be classified as a scheduled narcotic.
- This bill ties the hands of medical professionals who prescribe these medications and stigmatizes the use of lifesaving medication.

HB 1906 - Requires Parental Consent for Long Term Birth Control *Lundstrum*

Currently not on committee agenda

- Studies show that preventing teens from getting contraceptives without telling a parent won't stop teenagers from having sex, and actually puts them at risk. Not only does this bill prevent some teens from protecting themselves from unwanted pregnancy, but it deters them from attaining the services they need to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- Sexually active teenagers should be able to make the best decisions about their bodies and health by being able to obtain the birth control that works best for them.

ATTACKS ON LGBTQIA+ ARKANSANS

HB 1916 - Expands Civil Actions Allowed to be Brought Against Mental Health Professionals for Providing Medical and Social Gender Affirming Care to Minors *Bently*

Passed both chambers - next step to be delivered to the Governor for signature.

- This bill disincentivizes mental health professionals from providing medically recognized medical and social gender affirming care to minors by allowing people to bring civil lawsuits against them for providing proper care.
- Transgender and nonbinary youth are 2-2.5 times more likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide than their cisgender and LGBTQIA+ peers. Medical and social gender-affirming care are shown to decrease the likelihood of suicide and depression, improve mental health outcomes, build self-esteem, and boost their overall quality of life.
- This bill is another attempt by legislators with no mental health expertise to insert themselves in doctors' rooms. It is cruel and ties the hands of the experts providing the best care possible to their patients.

ANTI-MIGRANT LEGISLATION

SB 426 - Increased Criminal Penalties for Undocumented Migrants *Hester*

Delivered to Governor on 4/10

- This bill requires the Department of Corrections to participate in the Warrant Service Officer program, which has the potential for abuse as correctional officers tend to mistakenly unlawfully detain folks, costing the state tens of thousands in constitutional violation litigation costs.
- Detainment has ripple effects. Individuals who lose their jobs while detained face impacts to their families' economic security, which hurts the local economy. Plus, state and local governments are responsible for all personnel costs, including salaries, benefits, and overtime, as well as all administrative supplies.
- A person should not receive a harsher sentence for a crime just because of the nation they were born in.

HB 1655 - Anti-Immigrant Human Smuggling and Harboring Crime Bill *Long*

Passed through House Committee - Not Scheduled for floor activity yet

- This bill establishes two crimes: (1) human smuggling felony when a person knowingly transports an undocumented migrant into the state, and (2) harboring felony when a person knowingly conceals an undocumented migrant.
- This bill criminalizes compassion and punishes people who live with or drive in cars with undocumented migrants, which could include a migrant's own family members.

4401 W. 109th St, Suite 200 | Overland Park, KS 66211

Phone: (539) 233-3766 | Fax: (913) 345-2820 | www.PPGreatPlains.org