

## HEALTHCARE PROTECTION

House Bill 706 will allow health care professionals, with certain guardrails, to practice innovative medicine, share information with patients, as well as off-label use of products and treatments, all with the goal of improving patient outcomes. HB706 will not only benefit the public when seeking alternative treatments, but it will also protect our healthcare workers while providing these off-label treatments.

-Rep. Naarah Hastings

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

House Bill 744 is a simple bill that expands religious freedom to the benefit of many school districts. It is now clearly defined that any school official can optionally open a school day with prayer without fear of consequences, and school libraries can have a Bible or religious material that has cultural, historical or educational significance on display or on a shelf. The bill also allows conversations about religious topics to happen between a teacher and student if the student initiates the conversation. With these clear definitions, school districts, school officials and individual teachers gain significantly strengthened religious freedom.

-Rep. Greg Kmetz

## JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Senate Bill 201 encourages the recusal of a judge or lawyer in a proceeding which involves a party that made financial contributions to that judge or lawyer. This is a common sense reform to improve the impartiality and fairness of our courts and ensure equal treatment under the law.

-Sen. Greg Hertz

## ENERGY PRODUCTION PROTECTED

House Bill 971 prohibits the state from conducting environmental review on the basis of carbon dioxide. The Clean Air Act passed by the federal government does not include carbon dioxide as a regulated pollutant, and therefore it should not be a cause to bar energy production in the state of Montana.

-Rep. Josh Kassmier

## INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL PRIVACY

House Bill 684 achieves the removal of politics from court proceedings regarding the vaccination status of children or adults in cases of child support, custody, guardianship, and adoption. Vaccination status shall no longer be considered as evidence in these legal proceedings.

-Rep. Caleb Hinkle

## FREEDOMS FOR MILITARY

House Bill 583 allows military members, military spouses, and veterans to more quickly integrate and contribute to our economy by recognizing equivalent licensing from other states and military experience. This bill recognizes the talent and contributions of these individuals and creates a stepping stone to further succeed in their military endeavors.

-Rep. Brad Barker

Senate Bill 104 is a positive move supporting veterans in Montana by providing a greater exemption on taxable income from pension benefits for retired members of the military.

-Sen. John Fuller

## FINANCIAL FREEDOMS

Senate Bill 121 is a common sense conservative approach, giving Montanans a raise by permanently cutting the taxes they pay. Montanans are struggling to make ends meet and have been paying more income taxes than the state needs to fund essential services.

-Sen. Becky Beard

House Bills 192 and 222 return Montanans' hard-earned money through direct income tax and property tax rebates. These bills are a cornerstone between the Executive branch and the Legislature in the efforts to return a large portion of the surplus back to the Montanans who paid it.

-Reps. Bill Mercer and Tom Welch



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2023

# FREEDOMS ENHANCED

This is a short list of liberties that were strengthened for the people of Montana during the 2023 Montana Legislative session.

All of these laws were voted on and passed by the Republican Legislators in the Montana House and Senate and signed by our Republican Governor.

## 2ND AMENDMENT

Senate Bill 359 is designed to allow Montanans to exercise their Second Amendment rights without being tracked for making legal purchases of firearms, accessories, and ammunition. Modern payment and database technology makes it possible for the financial sector to conduct surveillance of law-abiding gun owners, and that's exactly what activists and politicians opposed to the Second Amendment are seeking to do.

-Sen. Terry Vermeire

House Bill 584 prevents local governments from filing nuisance and frivolous lawsuits against firearms manufacturers. Other areas around the country have experienced trouble with such lawsuits, so this bill acts as protection for those manufacturers who produce safe products as they are intended. Montana is open for business.

-Rep. George Nikolakakos

## MEDICAL FREEDOM

House Bill 303 implements the Medical Ethics and Diversity Act. This law protects medical practitioners such as doctors, nurses and pharmacists as well as medical institutions and payers from discrimination, punishment or retaliation due to exercising the right of conscience. HB303 is procedure based, not person based, allowing patients to have an honest relationship with their provider. Patients should know their provider is free from coercion of an ideology they do not believe.

-Rep. Amy Regier

House Bill 376 creates the Hospital Patient Bill of Rights. Similar to the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution, HB376 provides guaranteed rights of a hospital patient in Montana, and outlines how the patient can utilize those rights. This bill strengthens hospital accountability, promotes compassionate care, and puts patients in the driver's seat of their healthcare decisions.

-Rep. Jane Gillette

## PRIVATE PROPERTY

Senate Bill 159 protects private property rights by prohibiting the government from confiscating people's property for recreational or cultural purposes. It's important that we not allow the government to abuse its eminent domain powers.

-Sen. Becky Beard

## EDUCATION FREEDOM

House Bill 562 provides parents with more options and flexibility to choose the best educational path for their children by authorizing charter schools in Montana, empowering families with true school choice and encouraging students to develop their full educational potential.

-Rep. Sue Vinton

House Bills 203 and 396 ensure that students and families have access to opportunity and freedom of choice in schools. HB203 allows students to attend a school out of their district, and HB396 provides the ability for nonpublic school students to enroll part-time. Students will have greater access to educational resources to help them succeed and strengthen their passions.

-Reps. David Bedey and Naarah Hastings

## EDUCATION TRANSPARENCY

Senate Bill 518 requires parents to provide written permission before a school personnel uses pronouns that do not align with the child's sex. It also protects a persons right of conscience, specifically a teacher, from being compelled to use pronouns that do not align with a child's sex. This bill exists to strengthen educational transparency and build trust between teachers, staff, and parents.

-Sen. Theresa Manzella

House Bill 234 supports educational transparency by removing the exemption for allowing employees of a public school to show obscene material to minors. Children should not be exposed to obscene content by tax-payer funded employees, and it is our responsibility to protect the youth and create a strong foundation for the next generation.

-Rep. Bob Phalen

## PARENTAL RIGHTS

House Bill 676 makes it apparent that the parents/legal guardians of children should be the foremost decision makers in their children's lives and raise them in the way the parents prefer. Parents who are involved in their children's lives are the essential foundation in building up a strong, healthy society. HB676 is a firm stand for parental rights and a firm action towards a brighter future.

-Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

## PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION

House Bill 575 clarifies the term "viability" and prohibits an abortion of an unborn, viable child unless necessary to preserve the life of the mother. Though we know life begins at conception, this is one small step toward saving the life of an unborn child.

-Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

House Bill 862 prohibits the use of public funds to be used for an abortion.

-Rep. Mike Hopkins

Senate Bill 154 clarifies that the right of privacy in the state constitution does not include the right to abortion. There had to be a reason why the framers put "individual" in on that right to privacy. Abortion is not an individual event.

-Sen. Keith Regier

## ELECTION SECURITY

Senate Bill 117 is a straightforward election integrity bill that will strengthen Montana's confidence in our election processes. Montana's elections are not for sale. Elections are decided by the voting public and it's not appropriate for anyone other than the public to be funding the administration of elections.

-Sen. Shelley Vance

House Bill 712 codifies and prohibits the practice of allowing non-citizens to vote. Our constitution states that only a citizen of the United States can vote, but certain school districts in Montana were allowing illegal persons to vote in school elections: a clear violation of the Constitution.

-Rep. Zack Wirth

## STATES' RIGHTS

Senate Bill 203 is a counter measure to our adversaries that are becoming more sophisticated in how they compete with and threaten the United States economically, culturally, and militarily. Foreign adversaries and corporations acting at their behest have no business owning or leasing any part of Montana that is important to our national security.

-Sen. Ken Bogner