

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

**Call to Order:** Chair David Howard, on February 19, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. David Howard, Chair (R)  
Sen. Carl Glimm, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)  
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)  
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Diane Sands (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Jen Gross, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Corina Hach, Legislative Branch  
Gwyn Schooler, Committee Secretary  
Hallie Swain, Remote Meeting Coordinator

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 244, 2/17/2021; SB 245, 2/17/2021

**HEARING ON SB 245**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:01:03 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB245, Implement medical ethics and diversity act.

**EXHIBIT(phs35a01)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:05:09 Matt Brower, executive director, Montana Catholic Conference

**EXHIBIT(phs35a02)**

15:07:38 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)

15:10:46 Stephanie Nichols, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)

**Informational Testimony:**

15:14:52 Louis Brown, executive director, Christ Medicus Foundation

**EXHIBIT(phs35a03)**

15:16:26 Chair Howard

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:17:19 Heather O'Hara, vice president, Montana Hospital Association, Billings Clinic

15:22:53 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Academy of Physician Assistants

15:25:03 Kiely Keane, Montana Medical Association

15:29:10 Caitlin Borgmann, executive director, American Civil Liberties Union Montana (ACLU)

15:34:02 Vicky Byrd, CEO, Montana Nurses Association

15:39:27 Ann Truesdell, executive director, National Association of Social Workers Montana Chapter (NASW Montana Chapter)

15:42:07 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA)

15:44:15 SJ Howell, Montana Women Vote

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:47:35 Sen. Sands

15:48:11 Ms. Anderson, MPCA

15:50:09 Sen. Sands

15:51:00 Ms. Anderson

15:51:51 Sen. Hinebauch

15:52:05 Sen. Molnar entered the meeting.

15:52:51 Mr. Laszloffy, MFF

15:53:34 Ms. Nichols, ADF

15:54:29 Sen. McGillvray

15:55:09 Ms. Truesdell, NASW Montana Chapter

15:55:24 Sen. McGillvray

15:55:57 Ms. Truesdell

15:56:28 Sen. McGillvray

15:56:36 Ms. Truesdell

15:56:48 Chair Howard

15:57:58 Ms. Nichols  
15:58:37 Sen. Sands  
16:00:00 Ms. Borgmann, ACLU  
16:00:53 Sen. Sands  
16:01:36 Ms. Borgmann  
16:02:34 Sen. Sands  
16:03:03 Ms. Borgmann

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:03:25 Sen. Regier

**HEARING ON SB 244**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:05:17 Sen. Bryce Bennett (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB244, Require Medicaid coverage of weight-loss reduction procedures.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:07:42 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Academy of Physician Assistants  
16:08:31 Elizabeth Weber, Missoula

[EXHIBIT\(phs35a04\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:13:32 Sen. Bennett

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:02 PM

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Gwyn Schooler, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([phs35aad.pdf](#))**