

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) JUDICIARY**

**Call to Order:** Chair Amy Regier-R, on April 18, 2023 at 8:00 AM, in 137

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Amy Regier, Chair (R)  
Rep. Laurie Bishop, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Brandon Ler, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)  
Rep. Tom France (D)  
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. SJ Howell (D)  
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)  
Rep. Laura Smith (D)  
Rep. Zoey Zephyr (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)

**Staff Present:** Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary  
Rachel Weiss, Research Analyst

**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 250 04/12/2023

SB 518 04/12/2023

Executive Action:

SB 458 BE CONCURRED IN AS  
AMENDED  
SB 559 TO TABLE  
SB 563 TO TABLE

**HEARING ON SB 518 - Revise parental rights laws to increase parental involvement in education**

**Opening Statement:**

08:01:26 Sen. Theresa Manzella (R), SD 85, opened the hearing on SB 518, Revise parental rights laws to increase parental involvement in education.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:11:19 Garrett Bacon, Self

08:12:23 Jenna McKinney, on behalf of State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

08:14:08 Anna Shchemelinin, Self

08:16:54 Lance Melton, Coalition of Advocates of Montana's Public Schools

08:19:08 Denise Johnson, Self

08:20:39 Jessie Browning, Moms for Liberty

08:22:53 Alba Pimentel, Moms for Liberty

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:24:39 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees

08:26:41 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU)

08:28:36 Jenny Murnan-Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education

08:31:00 Robin Turner, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

08:33:27 Quinn Leighton, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

08:34:48 Shawn Reagor, Montana Human Rights Network

08:37:18 Nathan Stein, Bridger Care

08:38:55 Chloe Runs Behind, Forward Montana

08:40:47 Dr. Lauren Wilson, American Academy of Pediatrics

08:43:06 Dr. Katherine Lowe, Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:45:18 Nikki Grossberg, Child and Family Services at DPHHS

**Questions from Committee:**

08:45:56 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

08:49:06 Dr. Kathryn Lowe

08:50:33 Rep. SJ Howell

08:54:16 Nikki Grossberg, OPD

08:55:05 Rep. Wayne Rusk

08:58:52 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R

08:59:54 Rep. Zooey Zephyr

09:00:34 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R

09:05:53 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

09:09:09 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R

09:09:16 Rep. Tom France

09:11:12 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R

09:11:42 Rep. Lee Deming

09:12:23 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R

09:12:40 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

09:13:24 Keegan Medrano, ACLU

09:14:43 Rep. Laura Smith

09:16:01 Shawn Reagor, MHR

**Closing Statement:**

09:18:28 Sen. Theresa Manzella (R), SD 85, closed the hearing on SB 518.

**HEARING ON SB 250 - Adopt Safety of the Child First Act**

**Opening Statement:**

09:20:46 Sen. Theresa Manzella (R), SD 85, opened the hearing on SB 250, Adopt Safety of the Child First Act.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:25:23 Garrett Bacon, Self

09:26:30 Elizabeth Peterson, Self

09:28:36 Kylee Hailstone, Self

09:31:47 Matt Furlong, Montana Child Protection Alliance

09:33:31 Hannah Johnson, Self

09:35:51 Paul Johnson, Self

09:38:11 Denise Johnson, Montana Child Protection Alliance

09:41:42 Anna Shchemelinin, Self

09:44:04 Michelle Fredrick, Self

09:46:41 Michelle ReBecca, Self

09:48:52 Tina Swithin, Self

09:51:12 Ryan Fehringer, Montana Family Court Awareness Program

09:53:16 Lindsay Hill-Williams, Self

09:53:43 Jody Wilson Palmer, Child Advocate

09:55:45 Lauren Burningham, Self

09:57:42 Scott Aspenlieder, Self

09:59:52 Danielle Pollack, National Family Violence Law Center

10:02:18 Jan Strout, National Organization for Women

10:04:41 Lindsay Hill-Williams, Self

**Opponent Testimony:**

10:07:23 Lori Harshbarger, Self  
10:10:32 Melissa Louis, Self  
10:12:34 Sarah Corbally, Self  
10:14:45 Robin Turner, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
10:17:55 Eric Goldwarg, Self  
10:20:31 Gail Goheen, Self  
10:22:53 Jane Cowley, Self  
10:25:33 Leslie Halligan, Self  
10:28:07 Kelson Young, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
10:30:29 Andrew Breuner, District Judge Gallatin County  
10:33:00 Corbin Howard, Self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

10:35:22 Natalia Bowser, Board of Crime Control  
10:35:37 Erica Johnston, Department of Public Health and Human Services

**Questions from Committee:**

10:36:24 Rep. Neil Duram  
10:36:50 Andrew Breuner  
10:38:45 Rep. Neil Duram  
10:40:23 Corbin Howard  
10:42:07 Rep. Caleb Hinkle  
10:42:25 Elizabeth Peterson  
10:43:13 Rep. Caleb Hinkle  
10:44:04 Lori Harshbarger  
10:44:22 Rep. Caleb Hinkle

10:44:35 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop  
10:46:44 Danielle Pollack  
10:46:56 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop  
10:49:04 Natalia Bowser  
10:51:36 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop  
10:52:09 Robin Turner, ACLU  
10:54:58 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
10:58:26 Kylee Hailstone  
10:59:06 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
11:00:49 Jody Willson Palmer  
11:03:43 Rep. SJ Howell  
11:12:17 Lori Harshbarger  
11:13:42 Rep. Lee Deming  
11:14:32 Denise Johnson  
11:16:33 Rep. Laura Smith  
11:20:36 Robin Turner ACLU  
11:22:22 Rep. Laura Smith  
11:24:40 Paul Johnson  
11:24:56 Rep. Wayne Rusk  
11:30:18 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R  
11:30:25 Rep. Lee Deming  
11:30:29 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R  
11:30:38 Rep. Lee Deming  
11:30:44 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

11:32:06 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R  
11:33:03 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop  
11:33:43 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R  
12:22:36 Discussion on SB559

**Closing Statement:**

11:33:49 Sen. Theresa Manzella (R), SD 85, closed the hearing on SB 250.

11:38:48 **Recessed**

12:04:21 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 458 - Define sex in Montana law**

12:04:42 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 458 BE CONCURRED IN.**

12:05:18 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 458 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

12:05:49 Rep. Zooey Zephyr

12:06:52 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

**Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.

12:08:01 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 458 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

12:08:08 Rep. Laura Smith

12:09:29 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

12:09:52 Rep. Laura Smith

12:10:38 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

12:11:33 Rep. Laura Smith

12:11:34 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

12:11:40 Rep. Laura Smith

12:11:50 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

12:13:03 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
12:13:28 Rep. Laura Smith  
12:13:44 Rep. Zoey Zephyr  
12:14:03 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
12:14:17 Rep. Zoey Zephyr  
12:16:37 Rep. Braxton Mitchell

**Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 559 - Revise adult guardianship laws**

12:18:10 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 559 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

12:18:23 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

12:18:36 **Motion:** Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway moved that **SB 559 BE TABLED.**

**Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.  
Rep. Hinkle, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 563 - Constitutional amendment establishing a mental health trust fund**

12:19:51 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 563 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

12:20:08 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

12:20:39 Rep. Donavon Hawk

**Vote:** Motion failed 16 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. Duram, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Mitchell, voting yes.

12:22:08 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 563 BE TABLED.**

**Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:23:53

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Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230418JUHaad\)](#)