



Missouri Equity Education Partnership-Action mobilizes those who support diversity, equity, and inclusion for ALL! Please see the calls to action outlined below and join us in bending the arc towards equity ensuring Missouri schools are a safe, welcoming space where folks can learn all things.

CALLS TO ACTION

1. **The Senate could codify discrimination! HB 1518** has crossed over to the Senate and could be assigned to a committee soon and make it to the Senate Floor! This bill sanctions discrimination in college organizations.
 - [Contact your senator](#) and urge them to vote **NO** should it be taken up in the Senate.
 - Use [this link](#) to share the importance of clubs and organizations in your life.
2. **Accurate history and DEI are on the line! [Contact the members of the Senate Sel. Com. Empowering MO Parents and Children](#) and voice opposition against**
 - **SB 1203 (Coleman)** which has a hearing Tues, 3/12. This bill requires any DEI material for staff development or student instruction be placed online. The MO AG has enforcement and review power. *Only in person testimony is accepted for the record, but still make your voice heard!*
 - **SB 918 (Hoskins) the anti-CRT bill.** This could be voted out of committee at any time
3. **Protect Voting Rights in MO! SJR 74 (Coleman)** will have a hearing on Tuesday, March 12 at noon. This bill changes the Initiative Petition process. **We need to [flood the committee with written testimony](#)** and let them know direct democracy is vital!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS VISIT

<https://www.missouriequityaction.com/>

Recap from Last Week

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Parents and Children (EMPAC) heard **SB 918 (Hoskins)** which would censor history, and **SB 819 (B. Brown)** which expands the definition of homeschooling and creates a new category of non-public schools. Traditional homeschoolers oppose vouchers, and this new category is trying to circumvent that growing vocal opposition. These bills can come up for executive session at any time. Chairman Trent does not always include specific bill numbers for the Exec Session agendas. *See the call to action above.*

The House Special Committee on Public Policy heard **HB 1650 (Christensen)** on Wed 3/6 and met overwhelming opposition to regulating all drag performances as sexually oriented businesses. This bill met overwhelming opposition, more that 70%; 75% (22 people) in person opposed this bill. Some Committee members, particularly Reps. Hudson and Knight, focused on exactly what language could be added to make this bill acceptable, and witness after witness answered that no language would make this bill palatable because the sponsor made it clear last session, and more recently on a social media broadcast, that her belief is that all male and female impersonation is “innately” sexual, and she wants to push any nonconforming folks out of the public eye. [Listen to the back and forth testimony](#) and to [the remaining opposing testimony](#) to hear

some of the most powerful testimony this session. CW: This testimony could be triggering. We hear you, and we support you.

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee

- **Voted HB 2160 (Baker) out** another Parents Bill of Rights bill. Some districts are seeing the “chilling effect” some of these bills have because parents who want to protect their children from racial bullying are meeting resistance because schools are afraid of even discussing race. It is not in oversight yet. *We oppose this bill.*
- **Voted out HB 1851 (P. Brown)**, an accreditation/assessment bill; it has joined HB 2184 (Haffner) in oversight. *We support this bill* as the better of the two assessment bills. They are both in oversight.
- **Voted out HB 2630 (Black)**, an anti-bullying bill. *We are monitoring this bill* to ensure no concerning amendments are added. It has not been reported or moved to oversight as of publication.

The House General Laws Committee voted out HCS/HB 1426 (McGill) on Tuesday 3/6. This bill combines four bills attempting to govern age restriction for adult content on the internet. *We oppose this bill.*

The House oversight committees voted some some bills out and these can come up on the floor soon.

- **HB 1900 (Proudie)** prevents discrimination base on hairstyle, a/k/a The Crown Act.
- **HCS/HB 2619/2365/2448/2569 (Smith)** defunds DEI initiatives in all State of Missouri entities. It is now on the informal calendar.

Several bills crossed over to the opposite chamber and have seen movement:

- **HB 1518 (Hudson)** was voted out 100-46 and has been first read in the Senate. It could be assigned to a committee as early as Monday.
- **HB 2634 (Smith)** defunding Planned Parenthood was voted out 101-49 from the House. The emergency clause failed. It moved to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. No hearing is scheduled as of publication. *We oppose this bill.*
- **HB 1989 (Pollitt)**, open enrollment, has been referred to the original Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee. No hearing has been scheduled yet. *We oppose this bill.*
- **HB 1488 (Shields)** is a childcare tax credit and has been referred to the Senate Governmental Accountability committee. *We support this bill.*
- **SJR 74 (Coleman)** has been referred to House Election Elected Officials and has a hearing on Tues, 3/12 at noon. *We oppose this bill*

FILED BILLS ON OUR RADAR

- **HB 2885 (Gragg)** is a bill that has been filed but ***not assigned to a committee yet***. It is gaining some national press because itl would criminalize teachers/school counselors for supporting a student's social transition by using the preferred pronouns and/or name, placing educators on the sex offender registry. *We oppose this bill*, as does the bill sponsor's brother. He has come out hard, fast and publicly with his opposition. Since it is not moving as of publication, MOEEP-A is taking the position of letting the older brother engage for now. **If it moves to hearing, we are ready to mobilize, along with some of our coalition partners.**

Following are this week's expected actions.

Please note: Things change quickly for a variety of reasons, and not all committees have posted their agendas as of this update. Additionally, some bills are out of committee so there are new sections under each chamber letting you know about expected floor debate which changes without much notice.

All hearing updates can be found at these links:

House: <https://house.mo.gov/AllHearings.aspx> Senate: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/hearingsschedule/hrings.htm>

SOME OF THE BILLS BELOW MAY ALSO APPEAR IN THE CALLS TO ACTION ABOVE.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

ELECTIONS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS, Tues 3/12/24 12:00 pm, Hearing room 6

Watch the hearing!

- **SS/SJR 74 (Coleman)** changes the initiative petition process to include needing a majority of US Congressional districts. [You can read the latest version of the bill here.](#) *We oppose this bill.* See the call to action above.

HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

The calendar can change quickly. Please check the [House Calendar](#) for updates. You can also [watch live House debate](#) when they are in session.

Informal Calendar

- **HB 2619 (Smith)**, defunds DEI throughout official State of Missouri entities. [Contact YOUR representative](#) and urge a **NO** vote.

SENATE COMMITTEES

Senate Sel. Com. Empowering MO Parents and Children Tues, 3/12/24, 8 am Senate Lounge

Listen to the audio.

- **SB 1203 (Coleman)** has a new way to attack DEI. She proposes requiring districts to post all materials addressing staff or student instruction regarding sex, gender, and bias for public review. The Attorney General can bring vague punitive measures against the district for failure to do so, and can serve as a reviewer of such curriculum to determine suitability. *We oppose this bill.* See the call to action above.

SENATE FLOOR ACTION

The calendar can change quickly. Please [check the Senate Calendar](#) for updates. You can also [listen to live Senate debate](#) when they are in session.

FORMAL PERFECTION CALENDAR (Bills taken up in order unless moved to informal)

- **SB 1391 (Trent)**, a tax credit voucher bill, is #21 on the Formal Perfection Calendar and could come up for debate first this week. However, in the Senate, things change.

INFORMAL PERFECTION CALENDAR (No order is specified)

- **SB 727 (Koenig)** is a tax credit voucher/charter expansion bill
- **SB 1392 (Trent)** is a voucher bill/charter expansion bill.

Committees may post and/or amend hearings as the week goes on. Please stay tuned.

There will be no update published nor Thursday zoom next week. Our elected leaders are on spring break from 3/18-3/22. Stay vigilant, hydrate, and be ready!