



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.

CALL TO ACTION

CONTACT ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO PROTECT DIRECT DEMOCRACY!

Urge a vote against **SJR 74 (Coleman)** if this comes up for debate. This resolution will change the Initiative Petition process and undermine one person-one vote.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS VISIT

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

RECAP OF LAST WEEK

House Oversight committees voted out two bills. **SJR 74 (Coleman)** a bill seeking to add a concurrent majority of congressional districts for passage of initiative petitions brought to a vote. Ballot candy, provisions that would mislead voters into a yes vote, were removed by the Senate, and it is the sponsor's hope that these will be added back. The language states that only US citizens can vote, and would preclude foreign involvement in our elections. Both of these provisions already exist in our system. We oppose any change in the initiative petition process, and also believe "ballot candy" should stay off ballot language. Please see the call to action above.

SB 727, Sen. Koenig's education bill was also voted out of committee. We continue to monitor this bill and will keep you informed on its status.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Committee originally scheduled a second hearing for Wed, 4/10 at noon on HB 2938 (Davidson) which would, among other provisions, allow for an alternative certification process specific to districts and requiring only an Associate Degree. This hearing was canceled an hour before the scheduled start time, and the bill has been postponed; it could get a hearing later in the session. *We oppose the alternative certification portion of this bill.*

The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children met on Tuesday morning, 4/9, and heard HB 1989 (Pollitt), the open enrollment bill. We testified against this bill in the House and did so again in the Senate. The testimony in the Senate was 50-50. We believe this bill could lead to forced consolidation of small, rural districts. We also believe it will discriminate against special needs students because no new staff is required, so those students will be denied the opportunity to move.

The House also moved several bills to the Senate, but none we have opposed. .

The Senate third read and passed HB 2634 (Smith) which defunds Planned Parenthood for low-income Missourians receiving state insurance assistance. The Senate offered a substitute after an 11 hour Democratic filibuster. This version of the bill has returned to the House for consideration of changes. *We oppose this bill.*

Expected Actions This Week

COMMITTEES

Only one committee has scheduled a pertinent hearing as of publication of this update.

House Special Committee on Educational Reform, Wed Apr 17, 2024 12pm, Hearing Room 1

[Watch the hearing](#)

[HB 1672 \(Mathieson/Davidson\)](#) was introduced as a bill allowing families to declare the intent to homeschool and reduce truancy investigations. Rep. Davidson intends to introduce “a House Committee Substitute (HCS) with substantive changes to HB 1672.” We have requested a copy of the bill to evaluate a position on it.

FLOOR ACTION AND DEBATE

Predicting Floor Debate in either chamber is difficult. We monitor both calendars frequently.

[House](#)

[Senate](#)

There are five weeks left before the end of session on May 17, including this week. We have testified and notified our leaders, and now comes the time when we sometimes have to wait and watch in order to know the best course of action to take. Therefore, our focus will shift to close monitoring of the Chamber debates, and remaining in contact with others in our partnership to determine next steps. Sometimes things happen quickly, unexpectedly, and at odd hours of the day or night. It is not uncommon to send out updates with single-issue calls to action during these last weeks. We will keep you informed. Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do!