



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

**[CALL YOUR SENATOR TO VOTE AGAINST SJR 74.](#)** *This bill makes direct democracy much harder in Missouri and misleads voters.*

**[CALL GOVERNOR PARSON TO URGE A VETO OF SB 727 AT 573-751-3222!](#)** *This voucher bill opens a door that will totally change the landscape of Missouri public education, leaving out struggling and rural districts.*

**[DEMAND GOVERNOR PARSON VETO HB 2634!](#)** *This bill defunds Planned Parenthood in Missouri, and eliminates one more resource of publicly funded healthcare for folks who need it.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS VISIT

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

## RECAP OF LAST WEEK

**Three bills were sent to the Governor for signature. He has not addressed them as of publication.**

See the call to action above.

**SB 727 (Koenig)** is an omnibus voucher bill that will create funding challenges for all districts, particularly those that already struggle because the funding enticements in it are not permanent. Districts will have to find the funding or make cuts after just a few years. They are already weighing in about the unsustainability. Further, it will widen the equity gap because students of color, those from lower socioeconomic areas, LGBTQ+, and IEP students can all be denied acceptance at private/charter schools. Rural schools will be left out as well because of proximity to opportunities. What private schools will come to small, rural communities? These schools will also receive less funding due to the tax credit/voucher/ESA expansion.

**HB 2287 (Christofanelli)** started as a virtual education clean-up bill but was amended to “fix” a couple of issues in SB 727 so it would come through the House sans amendments. The fixes attempted to allay concerns of the homeschooling community, including second amendment issues. It became a companion to SB 727 and was passed/sent to the Governor the same day.

**HB 2634 (C. Smith)** defunds Planned Parenthood (see the call to action above. This bill prohibits any state money going to Planned Parenthood and/or its affiliates in the state or in other states. The proponents claim that it will keep Missouri tax dollars from being used for abortions anywhere. In reality, it will deny any healthcare that Planned Parenthood provides.

**The Initiative Petition bill, SJR 74 (Coleman)** was amended by the House and sent back to the Senate. See the call to action above. The House restored the “ballot candy” as requested by Senator Coleman in her committee presentation. This language is placed first in the bill indicating that it will protect the vote for US citizens only, and stop foreign interference in ballot initiative campaigns. These protections are already in statute. The language of “only citizens” in this bill and “all citizens” in the Missouri Constitution are a

distinction without a difference because both make it clear that non-citizens cannot vote. The vote was nearly party-line in the House with Floor Leader Patterson voting against passage.

**Committee action wanes later in the session, but we attended two hearings last week.**

**SB 1125 (B. Brown)** was heard in the Senate Select Committee Empowering Missouri Parents and Children on Wednesday, April 23. This bill would eliminate DEI provisions and protections in Missouri institutions of higher education. *We oppose this bill.* It would harm marginalized communities in those institutions as well as after graduation due to lack of preparedness. 75% of the witnesses providing on-the-record testimony were in opposition. Only two of the 12 supported the bill.

**HB 2938 (Davidson)** is a bill that would transform accreditation and certification in Missouri. His intention was to hear testimony and open discussions to craft a better bill for next session. *We oppose this bill* due to certification changes. He proposes a “district level certificate” that would allow anyone with an Associates’ who passes a background check to be certified only in that district, and that certificate would last until the district chose to revoke it. This opportunity would come only after a district reached an “A” level on his proposed top-down accreditation plan and maintained it for three consecutive years. While there is a need to address the teacher shortage, this bill, as written, is not it and we opposed it.

**This late in the session, it is unlikely these bills will move forward.**

## **Actions This Week**

### **COMMITTEES**

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

**Senate Committee on Progress and Development, Wed May, 1, 11:00am, SCR 1**

[Listen to the Hearing](#)

**HCS/HB 1900, 1591 & 2519 (Proudie)** creates the "Missouri Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (Missouri CROWN) Act", which governs discriminatory practices as they relate to protective hairstyles, by combining three bills from Reps. Proudie, Bosley, and Bland Manlove. The House vote was 144 YES, 0 NO, 1 PRESENT (Lonsdale), and House witness testimony showed overwhelming support as well at 85%. *We support this bill and will attend in person to testify.*

**Other committees may post hearings/agenda.** The Senate Hearing Calendar shows the focus will be on budget hearings. Lately, Senator Trent has waited until returning from the weekend to post hearings for the Senate Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children. *Please stay tuned.*

### **FLOOR ACTION AND DEBATE**

**Predicting Floor Debate in either chamber is difficult.** The budget is ready for Senate debate, so this will likely be their focus this week. They will also have SJR 74 to address (see the call to action above). The rest is up in the air for now.

[House](#)

[Senate](#)

We are down to three weeks left before the end of session, including this week. This week is likely the last week we will travel to Jefferson City to testify in hearings. However, we will continue to closely monitor Chamber debates, and remain in contact with others in our partnership to determine next steps as remaining legislation moves. 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. We continue to plant seeds.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do!