



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

If you have not taken these actions yet, please do so this week.

[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

There was little action this week due to the Freedom Caucus filibuster of the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA), SB 748 (Hough).

The three bills sent to the Governor last week saw little official action this week. There is concern by nearly every education association in the state that **SB 727 (Koenig)**, the voucher bill/omnibus will have a monstrous fiscal impact, and the Governor's office is reviewing the fiscal note. Governor Parson has 15 days to sign the bill or veto it, which is sometime next week. Inaction on his part will lead to it becoming law. MOEEP-A has registered our position urging a veto. **Please see the call to action above.**

HB 2634 (C. Smith), the Defunding of Planned Parenthood, falls into a similar timeline as SB 727. A call for signature was part of the Freedom Caucus demands to allow movement on the vital FRA. This demand went unmet and the bill remains unsigned. **Please see the Calls to Action above.**

SJR 74 (Coleman), which will make the initiative petition process more difficult for Missourians, became the second prong of demands the Freedom Caucus wanted before they would end their FRA filibuster. Five senators stopped the peoples' business for 40+ hours from Tuesday-Thursday a.m. Hearings were canceled and the Senate adjourned early Thursday morning to reconvene on Monday May 6. The filibustering senators (Eigel, Hoskins, Koenig, Brattin, and Schroer) talked about issues for a bit of the time, but mostly

just read books aloud from the Senate floor. Senator Moon joined them for inquiries sometime on Wednesday. Senator Jill Carter refused to participate in these tactics and, in fact, resigned from the Freedom Caucus on Thursday morning. This bill has House amendments including restoration of the ballot candy meaning to trick voters into a yes vote. Senate Democrats are committed to removing that misleading language and putting accurately and fairly worded ballot language before a vote of the people. *We oppose this bill, especially with the ballot candy intact.* It does not appear the senators' attempt to drive the order of business was successful, and there is no official indication whether the Senate will take up SJR 74 or move to the budget this week. The budget must be passed by 6:00 pm on Friday, May 10.

Committee action has all but ended for this legislative session.

The **Senate Select Committee Empowering Missouri Parents and Children** held what Chairman Trent referred to as “probably” its last hearing of the session on Tuesday, April 30 and voted out a long list of bills. The only one we were monitoring was **SB 1125**, which would eliminate DEI provisions and protections in Missouri institutions of higher education. *We oppose this bill.*

The **Senate Committee on Progress and Development** hearing scheduled for May 1 was canceled. It was to hear **HB 1900 (Proudie)**, known as the CROWN Act, prohibiting discrimination based on hair styles. It has not been rescheduled as of publication and is unclear if it will be this late in the session.

Actions This Week

COMMITTEES

There are no bills we are monitoring on any committee agendas as of publication. **Committees may post hearings/agenda.** *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](#)

There are just two weeks left before the 2024 regular session ends, including this week. 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, or does not move. 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 want to congratulate the Missourians for Constitutional Freedom campaign for submitting over 380,000 signatures to Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft. They brought a U-Haul of boxes to his office on Friday, May 3 and held a well attended celebration on the north side of the Capitol. This effort represented a thousand grassroots volunteers collecting signatures in every single county in Missouri. Those who organized and ran this campaign worked tirelessly for just under 90 days to marshal the volunteers who attended events, stood outside businesses, made house calls, and knocked on doors to send this powerful message to government leaders and people of the state: Missourians believe in healthcare freedom and reproductive rights. Thank you to everyone who made this herculean effort successful!

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