

MO Equity Education Partnership MO Legislative Update 2/25/2024

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.

This process is A LOT, but it is more important than ever for as many as possible to take 5-10 min to answer calls to action. Amplify our voice! Let them know, “WE ARE HERE! WE ARE HERE!”

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS PLEASE KEEP READING!

Recap from Last Week

- **This week provided a small respite from chaos.** The Senate held a 20 hour filibuster to compel changes to SJR 74 (Coleman) seeking to change the Initiative Petition Process. It ended up passing out of the Senate along party lines early Tuesday afternoon (2/20), but democrats succeeded in removing the ballot candy so we can communicate effectively with voters about the actual damage the bill would do instead of focusing on scare tactic the GOP wanted to employ to trick voters into a YES vote. This bill sailed through fiscal oversight and was sent to the House on Thurs, 2/22 where it was first read and will likely be referred to a committee on Monday for a hearing next week.

- **The Senate Select Committee on Empowering Parents and Children (EMPAC)** held an executive session on Wednesday, 2/21 catching us and members of the committee a little off guard. Chairman Trent is new to us and does not necessarily publish which bills would be exec'd, relying on the standard language that any bill already heard in committee could be exec'd out at any hearing. The bills that moved one step closer to floor debate are: two voucher bills SB 1391 (Fitzwater) and SB 1392 (Trent) which also has charter expansion; open enrollment SB 1051 (Trent); assessment an accreditation SB 1366 (Trent). We continue to monitor them and will advise on what membership can do when the time comes.

- **The House General Laws Committee** voted an anti-DEI bill out of committee on Tues 2/20. Four identical bills were combined into one using Rep. **Cody Smith's HB 2619** as the primary vehicle. No other changes were made. It was voted out along party lines and is on the **Regulatory Oversight Committee agenda for Monday 2/26 at 2:15 pm. See the CALL TO ACTION** on how to contact the committee. **Rep. Baker's HB 2567** anti-DEI bill specific to healthcare was not voted out which indicates it may have stalled.

The committee also voted out **HB 2634 (Smith)** which will defund Planned Parenthood. It is on the **Legislative Oversight Agenda for Monday 2/26 at 2:30** to be exec'd out. We have been following guidance from partner organizations on this bill. Contact for all committees is found with the same link and is in the call to action.

■ **HB 1518 (Hudson)** allowing discrimination of marginalized communities on college campuses was voted out of oversight on Monday 2/19; it can be brought up for debate this week. **See the CALL TO ACTION**

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

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION REFORM

Mon. 2/19/24 4:30 pm, Hearing Room 7.

Vid:

<https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00325/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20240209/-1/10105?viewMode=3>

■ **HB 1911 (Richey)** establishes the "**Missouri Parental Choice Tax Credit Act**" relating to a tax credit for certain educational expenses which is another way to say "vouchers." This will move public money to private, parochial and homeschools. *We oppose this bill. Please see the call to action.*

Text: <https://documents.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills241/hrbillspdf/3993H.011.pdf>

HOUSE ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION

Tues. 2/20 J 8 am, Joint Hearing Room

Vid:

<https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00325/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20240209/-1/10106?viewMode=3>

As of publication there is no published agenda.

GENERAL LAWS

Tues 2/20/24 2:00 pm, Room 7

Vid:

<https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00325/harmony/en/powerbrowser/RoomRouter?location=HR7%20Live&viewMode=3>

As of publication there are no bills we are monitoring on the agenda.

HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

Link to calendar: <https://house.mo.gov/Session.aspx>

■ **HB 1518 (Hudson)** leading to discrimination of marginalized communities
Summary: <https://documents.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills241/sumpdf/HB1518C.pdf>

■ **HCS/HB 1563 (Kelley)** defunding abortion
Summary: <https://documents.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills241/sumpdf/HB1563C.pdf>
Text: <https://documents.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills241/hlrbillspdf/3761H.02C.pdf>

SENATE COMMITTEES

Senate Sel. Com. Empowering MO Parents and Children

Tues, 2/20, 8 am Senate Lounge

Audio: <https://chamber.senate.mo.gov/lounge>

As of publishing, this committee has not posted an agenda.

SENATE FLOOR ACTION

Link to calendar: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/24info/pdf-cal/cal.htm>

There are two bills on the Senate Calendar to be assigned to a committee.

HB 1989 Open Enrollment (Pollit) which we oppose

HB 1488 Child Care Tax Credits (Shields) which we have monitored and do not oppose.

There is a single bill on the Formal Perfection Calendar: SB 742 (Arthur) child care tax credits. This SHOULD come up for debate first this week. However, in the Senate, things change.

Live audio and current actions are found under the Seal of Missouri on the **Senate Home Page** <https://www.senate.mo.gov/>

Committees may post and/or amend hearings as the week goes on. Please stay tuned.
Now is the time to amplify our voices! One voice. One BIG, PASSIONATE, UNDENIABLE
VOICE!!