



2021

Montana State Legislative Scorecard

See how Members of Montana's General Assembly are voting on economic growth issues.



Club for Growth Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on educating the public about the value of free markets, pro-growth policies, and economic prosperity.

State Legislative and Missed Votes Scorecards are created by the Club for Growth Foundation to educate the public about the voting records of legislators who serve in state legislatures, and to bring awareness to lawmakers. The Foundation's State Legislative Scorecards, such as this scorecard, specifically inform the public about the positions taken by legislators in a particular state on economic growth issues.

Our Mission

THE FOUNDATION EDUCATES THE PUBLIC ABOUT PRO-GROWTH POLICIES.

THE FOUNDATION CONDUCTS COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS OF VOTING RECORDS.

THE FOUNDATION'S GOAL IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND BRING AWARENESS TO LAWMAKERS.

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Club for Growth Foundation publishes the scorecard study so the public can monitor the actions and the voting behavior of Montana’s elected state lawmakers on economic growth issues.

The Foundation conducted a comprehensive examination of each lawmaker’s record on votes related to pro-growth policies and computed an Economic Growth Score on a scale of 0 to 100. A score of 100 indicates the highest support for pro-growth policies.

The Foundation examines legislative votes related to the Club’s immediate pro-economic growth policy goals, including:

- Reducing or eliminating tax rates and enacting tax reform
- Limited government through limited spending and budget reform
- Regulatory reform and deregulation
- Ending abusive lawsuits through medical malpractice and tort reform
- Expanding school choice
- Implementing Term Limits

Not all of these policy goals will come up for a vote in each legislative session.

The Foundation also examines votes on bills that would directly harm these goals.

This scorecard is based on selected votes of importance to the Foundation, and does not include the complete voting record of any legislator. There are inherent limitations in judging the overall qualifications of any legislator based on a selected voting record, and the Foundation does not endorse or oppose any legislator for public office.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED IN MONTANA IN 2021

The Foundation’s study examined over 3,900 floor votes and, in the end, included 22 Montana House votes and 24 Montana Senate votes.

COMPUTATION

Scores are computed on a scale of 0 to 100. Each vote or action in the rating is assigned a certain number of points depending on its relative importance. If a lawmaker casts a correct vote, the scorecard will denote it with that number. If a lawmaker casts an incorrect vote, the scorecard will denote that vote with a hyphen (-). Absences are not counted - signified as an “X” on the scorecard - though the Foundation reserves the right to do so if, in its judgment, a lawmaker’s position was otherwise discernible. If a lawmaker was not officially sworn into office at the time of a vote, the scorecard will denote that vote with an “I”.

To provide some additional guidance concerning the scores, each lawmaker was ranked. Aside from ties, lawmakers with 0%

scores are, by default, ranked #100 in the House and #50 in the Senate if all lawmakers are present. Scores and ranks cannot be directly compared between the House and Senate, as different votes were taken in each chamber. If applicable, the study also records a “Lifetime Score” for each lawmaker. This is a simple average of the scores from 2021 and all previous years where the lawmaker earned a score.

In some cases, a lawmaker was not present for enough votes for a meaningful score or ranking to be computed. In such cases “n.a.” for “not applicable” appears. In computing lifetime scores, years with “n.a.” listed instead of a score are not included. Comparing such scores to other members without “n.a.” years may be misleading.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS

A study of roll call votes on the floor of the Montana House and Montana Senate and legislative actions is just that. It cannot account for a lawmaker’s work in committee, advocacy in his party’s caucus meetings, and effectiveness as a leader in advocating pro-growth policies.

“Through the release of this series, the Club for Growth Foundation is looking at how state legislatures perform in terms of pro-growth policies. We believe that this scorecard will help inform citizens and entrepreneurs about who supports the policies that are good for economic prosperity.”

- DAVID McINTOSH
PRESIDENT, CLUB FOR GROWTH FOUNDATION

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Montana Senate Snapshot

50 MEMBERS

31 Republicans

19 Democrats

0 Vacancies

Average Republican Score: 85%

Average Democrat Score: 8%



HIGHEST-RATED REPUBLICANS

Several members had a score of **95%**



LOWEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Senator Jason Small (SD-21) | **64%**



HIGHEST-RATED DEMOCRAT

Senator Tom Jacobson (SD-11) | **29%**



LOWEST-RATED DEMOCRATS

Several members had a score of **0%**

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Name	District	Party	Score	Life-score	HB2	HB121	HB129	HB158	HB217	HB230	HB231	HB259	HB273	HB279	HB303	HB329	HB340	SB65	SB89	SB100	SB101	SB106	SB149	SB159	SB187	SB199	SB323	SB399	Rank
PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	5	4	5	2	4	5	2	6	5	2	5	5	
Ankney, Duane	SD-20	R	68%	68%	-	3	4	4	-	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	-	4	-	2	4	-	2	6	X	2	5	5	30
Bennett, Bryce	SD-50	D	13%	13%	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	35
Blasdel, Mark	SD-04	R	90%	90%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	-	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	10
Bogner, Kenneth	SD-19	R	90%	90%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	-	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	10
Boland, Carlie	SD-12	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Boldman, Ellie	SD-45	D	8%	8%	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
Brown, Bob	SD-07	R	90%	90%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	-	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	10
Cohenour, Jill	SD-42	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Cuffe, Mike	SD-01	R	84%	84%	6	3	4	4	-	4	6	1	3	6	4	X	-	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	19
Ellis, Janet	SD-41	D	4%	4%	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Ellsworth, Jason	SD-43	R	95%	95%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	1
Esp, John	SD-30	R	86%	86%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	5	4	-	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	16
Fitzpatrick, Steve	SD-10	R	89%	89%	-	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	15
Flowers, Pat	SD-32	D	8%	8%	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
Fox, Mike	SD-16	D	12%	12%	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Friedel, Chris	SD-26	R	80%	80%	-	3	4	4	-	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	21
Gauthier, Terry	SD-40	R	80%	80%	6	3	4	4	-	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	-	4	-	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	21
Gillespie, Bruce	SD-09	R	80%	80%	-	3	4	4	-	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	21
Glimm, Carl	SD-02	R	95%	95%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	1
Gross, Jen	SD-25	D	9%	9%	-	-	-	4	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	5	4	5	2	4	5	2	6	5	2	5	5	
Hertz, Greg	SD-06	R	90%	90%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	-	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	10
Hinebauch, Steve	SD-18	R	91%	91%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	6
Hoven, Brian	SD-13	R	85%	85%	-	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	18
Howard, David	SD-29	R	91%	91%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	6
Jacobson, Tom	SD-11	D	29%	29%	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	6	-	2	5	-	32
Kary, Douglas	SD-22	R	80%	80%	-	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	-	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	21
Keenan, Bob	SD-05	R	82%	82%	6	3	-	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	-	5	20
Lang, Mike	SD-17	R	86%	86%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	-	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	16
Lynch, Ryan	SD-37	D	21%	21%	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	5	-	34
Manzella, Theresa	SD-44	R	95%	95%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	1
McClafferty, Edie	SD-38	D	4%	4%	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
McGillvray, Tom	SD-23	R	95%	95%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	1
McNally, Mary	SD-24	D	8%	8%	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
Molnar, Bradley	SD-28	R	73%	73%	6	3	4	4	-	4	6	1	-	6	4	4	5	-	-	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	-	29
Morigeau, Shane	SD-48	D	4%	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
O'Brien, Shannon	SD-46	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Osmundson, Ryan	SD-15	R	90%	90%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	-	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	10
Pomnichowski, Jennifer	SD-33	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Pope, Christopher	SD-31	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Regier, Keith	SD-03	R	91%	91%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	6

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	5	4	5	2	4	5	2	6	5	2	5	5	
Sales, Walt	SD-35	R	75%	75%	-	3	4	4	-	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	5	4	-	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	26
Salomon, Daniel	SD-47	R	77%	77%	-	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	-	4	-	2	4	-	2	6	5	-	5	5	25
Sands, Diane	SD-49	D	5%	5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Small, Jason	SD-21	R	64%	64%	-	3	4	4	-	4	6	1	3	-	4	-	-	4	-	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	31
Smith, Cary	SD-27	R	95%	95%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	4	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	1
Sweeney, Mark	SD-39	D	24%	24%	-	-	4	4	-	-	6	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	33
Tempel, Russel	SD-14	R	74%	74%	-	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	-	4	-	5	4	-	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	27
Vance, Gordon	SD-34	R	91%	91%	6	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	5	4	5	2	4	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	6
Webber, Susan	SD-08	D	4%	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Welborn, Jeffrey	SD-36	R	74%	74%	-	3	4	4	5	4	6	1	3	6	4	-	-	4	-	2	X	-	2	6	5	2	5	5	27

Montana 2021 | Senate Vote Descriptions

HB 2 AMDT 8

DEFUNDING MEDICAID EXPANSION (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This amendment removes all general fund and state special revenue fund appropriations for Montana's ill-advised expansion of Medicaid under Obamacare. Medicaid expansion to able-bodied adults has been a catastrophe for both state budgets and health outcomes, resulting in longer wait times, crowding out care for the neediest, driving up overall costs for taxpayers, and poorer health outcomes. Defunding the state's Medicaid expansion along with repealing statutory authorization is the right policy for Montanans. The Montana Senate failed to pass this amendment, 20-30, on April 8, 2021.

HB 121

LIMITING THE AUTHORITY OF UNELECTED BUREAUCRATS (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill creates a strong check on local health boards and officers by requiring that any local health mandate issued in response to a declared state of emergency, which is stricter than the state's existing health measures and guidelines, be approved by the local governing body. Furthermore, any such mandate may only remain in effect during the state of emergency or until the governing body holds a public meeting and a majority of the governing body moves to amend or rescind the mandate. Additionally, the legislation prohibits any mandate from interfering with a person's attendance at a place of religious worship and limits penalties for non-compliance to a civil fine rather than a misdemeanor. The legislation also established mechanisms for redress for citizens to petition and undo potentially onerous local health measures, if enacted. The Montana House passed this bill,

68-31, on March 1, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 31-19, on March 25, 2021.

HB 129

EXPANSION OF EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill updates the State Education Savings Program to mirror the federal 529 college savings plans, which were expanded in 2017 to allow expenditures on a wider array of educational expenses. This means that Montanans can utilize these tax-free plans to provide for educational expenses, such as tuition, books, and school supplies. As a record number of parents move their children out of failing government schools, expanding school choice through expanded tax-free savings accounts empowers parents to make the best educational decisions for their children. The Montana Senate passed this bill, 31-19, on March 26, 2021. The Montana House passed it, 69-27, on April 13, 2021.

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HB 158

ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY STATE REGULATIONS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill creates a commission to examine the more than 200 regulations suspended during COVID-19 and make specific recommendations on which of these should be permanently repealed. While many commissions engage in frivolous activities that expand the role of government, this particular commission would have effectively served Montanans by permanently removing unnecessary and burdensome government regulations. The Montana House passed this bill, 78-18, on April 26, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 42-8, on April 23, 2021. Governor Greg Gianforte vetoed the legislation and the veto override failed, 63-68.

HB 217

NEW LICENSING SCHEME

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill creates an onerous licensing scheme for genetic counselors operated by the state

Department of Labor and Industry. The licensing regime includes eligibility requirements, fees, fines, and a scope of practice section. Lawmakers should be focused on eliminating burdensome licensing schemes, such as this one, that serve as barriers to entry, decrease competition, and often have outsized negative economic impacts on lower-income populations. The Montana House passed this bill, 74-25, on February 15, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 26-23, on March 23, 2021.

HB 230

LIMITS ON EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill establishes an important legislative check on the governor's authority to declare a state of emergency or disaster. Specifically, the legislation limits the duration of a declared state of emergency to no more than 45 days, without legislative approval, and establishes a cost-efficient and quick ballot process for legislators to either vote to extend the emergency authorization or end it. Furthermore,

the bill protects the First Amendment religious freedom rights of Montanans and prohibits the governor from issuing any executive orders or suspending statutes during a state of emergency that negatively affects Montanans' ability to exercise their constitutional rights. The Montana House passed this bill, 67-33, on April 27, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 31-19, on April 26, 2021.

HB 231

REPEALING CERTIFICATE OF NEED LAWS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill eliminates onerous certificate of need (CON) regulations which require health care providers to receive state approval for expanding services and facilities, or utilizing new technologies in the treatment of patients. Specifically, the bill modifies CON regulations to only apply to long-term care facilities. Certificate of need laws are a major regulatory barrier that unduly constrict access and care. Repealing such laws will ultimately lower costs and improve patient outcomes. The Montana House passed

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this bill, 65-27, on April 26, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 32-17, on March 31, 2021.

HB 259

LOW-INCOME HOUSING MANDATE PROHIBITION

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill prohibits local governments from adopting so-called “inclusionary zoning” rules which would mandate that developers set aside property, at well below actual market rates, for the purpose of providing housing to individuals at specified income levels. Furthermore, the legislation prohibits local governments from imposing zoning regulations that require developers to pay fees for the purpose of funding low-income housing. The Montana House passed this bill, 64-35, on February 16, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 31-19, on March 26, 2021.

HB 273

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill eliminates a major state-imposed limit on nuclear power development which required a ballot initiative and passage of a statewide referendum before a nuclear power facility could be certified for construction. Nuclear power is not only one of the cleanest forms of energy, it is consistently one of the most reliable forms of power generation for consumers. States should be encouraging, not restricting, the development of nuclear power. The Montana House passed this bill, 68-32, on February 16, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 30-20, on April 15, 2021.

HB 279

EXPANSION OF SCHOOL CHOICE FUNDING

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill significantly increases the amount of funding that individuals and businesses can donate to nonprofits that provide educational scholarships to students in exchange for a tax credit equal to

their contributions. The maximum amount of the credit was increased from \$150,000 to \$200,000 and can be carried forward three years. As a record number of parents move their children out of failing government schools, policies that bolster educational opportunities for students are critical for improving education outcomes. The Montana House passed this bill, 67-33, on April 27, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 29-21, on April 26, 2021.

HB 303

BUSINESS EQUIPMENT TAX CUT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill lowers the tax burden for nearly 4,000 Montana businesses by increasing the state exemption on capital expenditures and business equipment from the first \$100,000 to the first \$300,000. Tax cuts such as this provide relief to small businesses by incentivizing businesses to grow and expand, which results in increased productivity, wage growth, and more risk-taking associated with job formation. The Montana House passed this bill, 64-33, on April 28, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 39-11, on April 27, 2021.

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HB 329

INCREASING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill establishes education savings accounts (ESAs) for special needs students. These ESAs extend to tuition, books, tutoring services, software, and special education therapies to expand the tools available to parents within this specific student population. The funding allocation represents a proportion of a student's per pupil allocation as determined by their district school. ESAs remain a proven and effective method of expanding school choice, serving as a critical tool for parents to customize the educational experience to the needs of their child to maximize educational performance and outcomes. The Montana House passed this bill, 66-33, on March 19, 2021. The Montana Senate failed to pass it, 15-34, on April 23, 2021.

HB 340

EXPANSION OF HOLLYWOOD SUBSIDIES

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill provides a \$12 million annual tax credit carve-out to incentivize the film industry to come to Montana for their various projects. This expands an already existing \$10 million annual cronyism carve-out. Instead of providing specific well-connected industries with taxpayer-backed handouts, Montana lawmakers should focus on creating a favorable business environment in the state by cutting regulations and taxes for all businesses and individuals. The Montana House passed the bill, 77-20, on April 28, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 31-19, on April 27, 2021.

SB 65

COVID LEGAL LIABILITY REFORMS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill creates a safe harbor provision with civil liability protection for businesses and nonprofit organizations protecting them against frivolous COVID-19-related lawsuits. Importantly, the

legislation provides immunity to these entities unless gross negligence or willful misconduct can be proven. This is critical for ensuring that small businesses and civic organizations that follow health code guidance can continue to operate, grow, and contribute to the economy without fear of reprisal from those seeking to profit off the pain inflicted by government mandates and the virus. The Montana House passed this bill, 64-36, on February 2, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 32-18, on February 4, 2021.

SB 89

PREVENTION OF COMPULSORY UNION DUES

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill prohibits a public employer and union from carrying out the automatic deduction of union dues from a public employee's paycheck. Workers should not have union dues automatically deducted from their hard-earned compensation or be forced to join labor unions. The Montana Senate failed to pass this bill, 28-22, on March 1, 2021.

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SB 100

PREVENTING MEDICAID FRAUD AND WASTE (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements measures to curb fraud and waste in the state's Medicaid program with the core feature being an elimination of continuous eligibility. Medicaid is not an efficient health care program. It is a poorly-designed and poorly-run welfare program that is bankrupting state budgets and rife with fraud. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services estimated a Medicaid fraud rate of 21 percent in 2020 resulting in a cost of \$87 billion to taxpayers. The Montana Senate passed this bill, 31-19, on February 27, 2021. The bill died in the Montana House.

SB 101

INCREASING HEALTHCARE FREEDOM THROUGH DIRECT PATIENT CARE AGREEMENTS (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill allows patients to enter into direct patient care agreements with healthcare providers to arrange for the provision of healthcare services

in exchange for the payment of a direct fee. This is a critical development for health care freedom and the ability of patients and doctors to interact without third-party interference from big government and crony insurance bureaucrats. Measures such as these provide for lower costs and higher overall quality of care for consumers, while restoring a doctor-patient relationship that has been harmed by decades of destructive federal policies. The Montana House passed it, 65-34, on March 11, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 33-16, on March 22, 2021.

SB 106

NEW LICENSING SCHEME (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill creates a new government-run licensing scheme for veterinary technicians, which includes onerous eligibility requirements, restrictive scope of practice regulations, and harsh fines. Lawmakers should be focused on eliminating burdensome licensing schemes, such as this one, that serve as barriers to entry, decrease competition, and often have outsized negative economic impacts

on lower-income populations. The Montana House passed this bill, 87-10, on April 1, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 50-0, on April 12, 2021.

SB 149

AUTHORIZING HEALTHCARE SHARING MINISTRIES (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill increases healthcare freedom by allowing for the creation of healthcare sharing ministries in which members share medical expenses with other members in accordance with their religious and ethical beliefs. Additionally, the legislation exempts healthcare ministries from regulation as insurance. In the wake of the catastrophic implementation of Obamacare, millions of Americans not only lost their existing insurance, but also saw their costs more than double in states like Montana. In turn, Americans joined health sharing associations and health sharing ministries as an alternative and affordable way to defray expensive health care costs. The Montana House passed this bill, 65-33, on April 20, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 31-19, on April 23, 2021.

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SB 159

INDIVIDUAL TAX RATE CUT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill cut Montana's top individual tax-bracket rate from 6.9 percent to 6.75 percent beginning in 2022. The state's top tax bracket rate kicks in after \$17,400 in taxable income. Montana's median individual income is around \$28,500 with median household income around \$55,000, which means that this tax cut provides tax relief for the vast majority of Montanans. Reducing individuals' taxation is a pro-growth reform that also reduces the state government's ability to grow in size, scope, and cost given Montana's Balanced Budget requirement. The Montana House passed this bill, 65-32, on April 26, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 34-16, on April 27, 2021.

SB 187

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill raises Montana's minimum wage from \$8.75 an hour to \$12.00 an hour by 2024. Despite state and federal initiatives to increase the minimum wage, evidence repeatedly shows that such policies only increase unemployment and eliminate entry-level jobs from the market. America is facing a labor shortage and there are more jobs available than unemployed Americans. Minimum policies only serve to exacerbate existing problems. The Montana Senate failed to pass this bill, 19-30, on February 26, 2021.

SB 199

FOOD FREEDOM ACT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill rolls back regulations on the cottage food industry and prohibits state health officials and local governments from imposing restrictions on homemade food and goods including farm-to-table products, steer-to-steak, and home-processed products sold directly to consumers

at farmers markets and other community events. Additionally, the legislation legalizes the sale of raw milk with limited restrictions. Deregulation increases economic growth by empowering individuals to start and grow businesses without government intervention. The Montana House passed this bill, 70-26, on April 9, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 32-18, on April 15, 2021.

SB 323

MONTANA REINS ACT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements a state version of the federally-proposed REINS Act, which requires an economic impact statement for all proposed regulations. Additionally, for any rule or regulation with an impact on businesses or individuals greater than \$2.5 million, the rule must be submitted to the state legislature for approval. The Montana Senate passed this bill, 33-17, on April 7, 2021. The Montana House did not take it up.

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SB 399

SIMPLIFYING THE TAX CODE AND CUTTING TAXES

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill eliminates numerous state tax credits in an attempt to simplify the state’s tax code. Furthermore, the legislation aligns the calculations required on state tax forms to more closely resemble those on federal tax forms to ease the burden on taxpayers during the filing period. Importantly, the bill lowers the state’s top income tax bracket to 6.5 percent for households. Lowering the overall tax burden and simplifying the tax code are key measures which increase economic growth. The Montana House passed this bill, 67-31, on April 26, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 30-20, on April 27, 2021.

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Montana House Snapshot

100 MEMBERS

67 Republicans

33 Democrats

0 Vacancies

Average Republican Score: 83%

Average Democrat Score: 6%



HIGHEST-RATED REPUBLICANS

Several members had a score of **95%**



LOWEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Rep. Geraldine Custer (HD-39) | **64%**



HIGHEST-RATED DEMOCRAT

Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (HD-49) | **21%**



LOWEST-RATED DEMOCRATS

Several members had a score of **0%**

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	
Abbott, Kim	HD-083	D	5%	5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
Anderson, Fred	HD-020	R	73%	73%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	-	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	58
Bartel, Dan	HD-029	R	89%	89%	4	4	X	5	4	X	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	17
Beard, Becky	HD-080	R	95%	95%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	1
Bedey, David	HD-086	R	79%	79%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	-	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	44
Berglee, Seth	HD-058	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	23
Bertoglio, Marta	HD-075	R	79%	79%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	44
Binkley, Michele	HD-085	R	90%	90%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	-	4	-	3	6	2	5	9
Bishop, Laurie	HD-060	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93
Brewster, Larry	HD-044	R	84%	84%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	34
Buckley, Alice	HD-063	D	10%	10%	-	-	4	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
Buttrey, Edward	HD-021	R	77%	77%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	-	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	X	3	6	2	5	52
Caferro, Mary	HD-081	D	6%	6%	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	83
Carlson, Jennifer	HD-069	R	90%	90%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	9
Curdy, Willis	HD-098	D	7%	7%	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	79
Custer, Geraldine	HD-039	R	64%	64%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	-	-	5	6	4	4	-	-	5	4	-	3	6	-	5	67
Dooling, Julie	HD-070	R	73%	73%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	-	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	58
Dunwell, Mary Ann	HD-084	D	5%	5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
Duram, Neil	HD-002	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	23
Farris-Olsen, Robert	HD-079	D	5%	5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	84

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	
Fern, Dave	HD-005	D	11%	11%	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	70
Fielder, Paul	HD-013	R	90%	90%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	9
Fitzgerald, Ross	HD-017	R	69%	69%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	-	5	6	-	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	64
Fleming, Frank	HD-051	R	78%	78%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	X	-	3	6	2	5	51
France, Thomas	HD-094	D	7%	7%	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	79
Frazer, Gregory	HD-078	R	76%	76%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	X	2	X	54
Fuller, John	HD-008	R	90%	90%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	9
Funk, Moffie	HD-082	D	4%	4%	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
Galloway, Steven	HD-024	R	79%	79%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	-	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	44
Galt, Wylie	HD-030	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	23
Garner, Frank	HD-007	R	73%	73%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	-	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	58
Gillette, Jane	HD-064	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	23
Gist, Steve	HD-025	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	23
Greef, Sharon	HD-088	R	84%	84%	4	X	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	34
Gunderson, Steve	HD-001	R	84%	84%	4	X	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	34
Hamilton, Jim	HD-061	D	10%	10%	-	-	4	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
Harvey, Derek	HD-074	D	9%	9%	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	76
Hawk, Donavon	HD-076	D	8%	8%	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77
Hayman, Denise	HD-066	D	10%	10%	X	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
Hill, Ed	HD-028	R	74%	74%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	-	4	-	3	6	2	5	57

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	
Hinkle, Caleb	HD-068	R	95%	95%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	1
Hinkle, Jedediah	HD-067	R	95%	95%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	1
Holmlund, Kenneth	HD-038	R	68%	68%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	-	5	6	4	4	-	-	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	65
Hopkins, Mike	HD-092	R	81%	81%	4	4	4	5	4	6	-	2	-	5	6	X	4	X	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	42
Jones, Llew	HD-018	R	76%	76%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	-	5	6	X	4	X	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	54
Karjala, Jessica	HD-048	D	10%	10%	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	72
Kassmier, Joshua	HD-027	R	79%	79%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	44
Keane, Jim	HD-073	D	7%	7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	79
Kelker, Kathy	HD-047	D	4%	4%	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
Keogh, Connie	HD-091	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93
Kerns, Scot	HD-023	R	90%	90%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	9
Kerr-Carpenter, Emma	HD-049	D	21%	21%	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	68
Knudsen, Casey	HD-033	R	90%	90%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	9
Knudsen, Rhonda	HD-034	R	90%	90%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	9
Kortum, Kelly	HD-065	D	5%	5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
Lenz, Dennis	HD-053	R	84%	84%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	-	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	34
Ler, Brandon	HD-035	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	23
Loge, Denley	HD-014	R	79%	79%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	44
Malone, Marty	HD-059	R	80%	80%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	-	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	43
Marler, Marilyn	HD-090	D	0%	0%	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	
Marshall, Ron	HD-087	R	79%	79%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	44
McKamey, Wendy	HD-019	R	70%	70%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	-	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	-	6	2	5	63
Mercer, Bill	HD-046	R	89%	89%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	-	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	17
Mitchell, Braxton	HD-003	R	83%	83%	4	4	4	-	4	X	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	40
Moore, Terry	HD-054	R	83%	83%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	-	5	-	4	4	5	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	40
Nave, Fiona	HD-057	R	79%	79%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	44
Noland, Mark	HD-010	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	23
Novak, Sara	HD-077	D	4%	4%	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
Olsen, Andrea	HD-100	D	5%	5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
Patelis, Jimmy	HD-052	R	87%	87%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	X	4	X	5	5	4	X	3	6	2	5	21
Phalen, Bob	HD-036	R	86%	86%	4	-	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	22
Putnam, Brian	HD-009	R	65%	65%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	-	-	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	-	-	3	6	-	5	66
Read, Joe	HD-093	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	-	4	-	3	6	2	5	23
Regier, Amy	HD-006	R	95%	95%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	1
Regier, Matt	HD-004	R	95%	95%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	X	6	2	5	1
Reksten, Linda	HD-012	R	77%	77%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	X	-	5	6	4	4	-	X	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	52
Ricci, Vince	HD-055	R	84%	84%	4	4	4	5	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	X	6	2	5	34
Running Wolf, Tyson	HD-016	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	93
Schillinger, Jerry	HD-037	R	95%	95%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	1
Seekins-Crowe, Kerri	HD-043	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	23

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Name	District	Party	Score	Lifescore	HB121	HB129	HB158	HB217	HB230	HB231	HB251	HB259	HB261	HB273	HB279	HB303	HB329	HB340	HB422	SB65	SB101	SB106	SB149	SB159	SB199	SB399	Rank
PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	
Sheldon-Galloway, Lola	HD-022	R	89%	89%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	X	2	5	17
Skees, Derek	HD-011	R	95%	95%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	1
Smith, Frank	HD-031	D	20%	20%	-	X	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	5	69
Stafman, Ed	HD-062	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93
Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon	HD-042	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93
Stromswold, Mallerie	HD-050	R	90%	90%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	9
Sullivan, Katie	HD-089	D	4%	4%	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
Tenenbaum, Danny	HD-095	D	11%	11%	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	70
Thane, Mark	HD-099	D	8%	8%	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77
Trebas, Jeremy	HD-026	R	95%	95%	4	4	4	5	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	1
Tschida, Brad	HD-097	R	84%	84%	4	4	4	5	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	34
Usher, Barry	HD-040	R	88%	88%	4	4	4	5	4	X	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	5	3	6	2	5	20
Vinton, Sue	HD-056	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	23
Walsh, Kenneth	HD-071	R	73%	73%	4	4	4	-	4	X	-	2	6	5	6	4	X	-	5	5	4	-	-	6	2	5	58
Weatherwax, Marvin	HD-015	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	93
Welch, Tom	HD-072	R	76%	76%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	-	6	2	5	54
Whiteman Pena, Rynalea	HD-041	D	7%	7%	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	79
Whitman, Kathy	HD-096	R	73%	73%	4	4	4	-	4	6	-	2	-	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	58
Windy Boy, Jonathan	HD-032	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93
Zolnikov, Katie	HD-045	R	85%	85%	4	4	4	-	4	6	6	2	6	5	6	4	4	-	5	5	4	-	3	6	2	5	23

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HB 121

LIMITING THE AUTHORITY OF UNELECTED BUREAUCRATS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill creates a strong check on local health boards and officers by requiring that any local health mandate issued in response to a declared state of emergency, which is stricter than the state's existing health measures and guidelines, be approved by the local governing body. Furthermore, any such mandate may only remain in effect during the state of emergency or until the governing body holds a public meeting and a majority of the governing body moves to amend or rescind the mandate. Additionally, the legislation prohibits any mandate from interfering with a person's attendance at a place of religious worship and limits penalties for non-compliance to a civil fine rather than a misdemeanor. The legislation also established mechanisms for redress for citizens to petition and undo potentially onerous local health measures, if

enacted. The Montana House passed this bill, 68-31, on March 1, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 31-19, on March 25, 2021.

HB 129

EXPANSION OF EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill updates the State Education Savings Program to mirror the federal 529 college savings plans, which were expanded in 2017 to allow expenditures on a wider array of educational expenses. This means that Montanans can utilize these tax-free plans to provide for educational expenses, such as tuition, books, and school supplies. As a record number of parents move their children out of failing government schools, expanding school choice through expanded tax-free savings accounts empowers parents to make the best educational decisions for their children. The Montana Senate passed this bill, 31-19, on March

26, 2021. The Montana House passed it, 69-27, on April 13, 2021.

HB 158

ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY STATE REGULATIONS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill creates a commission to examine the more than 200 regulations suspended during COVID-19 and make specific recommendations on which of these should be permanently repealed. While many commissions engage in frivolous activities that expand the role of government, this particular commission would have effectively served Montanans by permanently removing unnecessary and burdensome government regulations. The Montana House passed this bill, 78-18, on April 26, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 42-8, on April 23, 2021. Governor Greg Gianforte vetoed the legislation and the veto override failed, 63-68.

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HB 217

NEW LICENSING SCHEME

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill creates an onerous licensing scheme for genetic counselors operated by the state Department of Labor and Industry. The licensing regime includes eligibility requirements, fees, fines, and a scope of practice section. Lawmakers should be focused on eliminating burdensome licensing schemes, such as this one, that serve as barriers to entry, decrease competition, and often have outsized negative economic impacts on lower-income populations. The Montana House passed this bill, 74-25, on February 15, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 26-23, on March 23, 2021.

HB 230

LIMITS ON EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill establishes an important legislative check on the governor's authority to declare a state of emergency or disaster. Specifically, the legislation limits the duration of a declared

state of emergency to no more than 45 days, without legislative approval, and establishes a cost-efficient and quick ballot process for legislators to either vote to extend the emergency authorization or end it. Furthermore, the bill protects the First Amendment religious freedom rights of Montanans and prohibits the governor from issuing any executive orders or suspending statutes during a state of emergency that negatively affects Montanans' ability to exercise their constitutional rights. The Montana House passed this bill, 67-33, on April 27, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 31-19, on April 26, 2021.

HB 231

REPEALING CERTIFICATE OF NEED LAWS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill eliminates onerous certificate of need (CON) regulations which require health care providers to receive state approval for expanding services and facilities, or utilizing new technologies in the treatment of patients. Specifically, the bill modifies CON regulations to only apply to long-term care facilities. Certificate

of need laws are a major regulatory barrier that unduly constrict access and care. Repealing such laws will ultimately lower costs and improve patient outcomes. The Montana House passed this bill, 65-27, on April 26, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 32-17, on March 31, 2021.

HB 251

ENDING MANDATES ON UNION

MEMBERSHIP

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill would have transformed Montana into a right-to-work state, ending compulsory union membership as a condition of employment. The legislation requires an employee's written consent prior to the deduction of union dues from their paycheck and imposes criminal penalties on unions for intimidating or attempting to intimidate employers into entering into labor agreements. Workers should not be forced to join labor unions. Of note, 11 of the 15 fastest growing state economies are right-to-work states. The Montana House failed to pass this bill, 38-62, on March 2, 2021. The Montana Senate did not take it up.

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HB 259

LOW-INCOME HOUSING MANDATE PROHIBITION

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill prohibits local governments from adopting so-called “inclusionary zoning” rules which would mandate that developers set aside property, at well below actual market rates, for the purpose of providing housing to individuals at specified income levels. Furthermore, the legislation prohibits local governments from imposing zoning regulations that require developers to pay fees for the purpose of funding low-income housing. The Montana House passed this bill, 64-35, on February 16, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 31-19, on March 26, 2021.

HB 261

TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill amends the Montana state constitution to restrict the number and type of taxes that can be imposed on hardworking Montanans.

The proposal prohibits the state from imposing anything other than an income tax, property tax, and a general statewide sales tax, and also limits the state to imposing no more than two of these three taxes at a time. Measures such as these are critical for reducing the tax burden on job creators and creating the conditions necessary for long-term economic growth. The Montana House failed to pass this bill, 50-50, on March 30, 2021. The Montana Senate did not take it up.

HB 273

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill eliminates a major state-imposed limit on nuclear power development which required a ballot initiative and passage of a statewide referendum before a nuclear power facility could be certified for construction. Nuclear power is not only one of the cleanest forms of energy, it is consistently one of the

most reliable forms of power generation for consumers. States should be encouraging, not restricting, the development of nuclear power. The Montana House passed this bill, 68-32, on February 16, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 30-20, on April 15, 2021.

HB 279

EXPANSION OF SCHOOL CHOICE FUNDING

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill significantly increases the amount of funding that individuals and businesses can donate to nonprofits that provide educational scholarships to students in exchange for a tax credit equal to their contributions. The maximum amount of the credit was increased from \$150,000 to \$200,000 and can be carried forward three years. As a record number of parents move their children out of failing government schools, policies that bolster educational opportunities for students are critical for improving education outcomes. The Montana House passed this bill, 67-33, on April 27, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 29-21, on April 26, 2021.

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HB 303

BUSINESS EQUIPMENT TAX CUT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill lowers the tax burden for nearly 4,000 Montana businesses by increasing the state exemption on capital expenditures and business equipment from the first \$100,000 to the first \$300,000. Tax cuts such as this provide relief to small businesses by incentivizing businesses to grow and expand, which results in increased productivity, wage growth, and more risk-taking associated with job formation. The Montana House passed this bill, 64-33, on April 28, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 39-11, on April 27, 2021.

HB 329

INCREASING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill establishes education savings accounts (ESAs) for special needs students. These ESAs extend to tuition, books, tutoring services,

software, and special education therapies to expand the tools available to parents within this specific student population. The funding allocation represents a proportion of a student's per pupil allocation as determined by their district school. ESAs remain a proven and effective method of expanding school choice, serving as a critical tool for parents to customize the educational experience to the needs of their child to maximize educational performance and outcomes. The Montana House passed this bill, 66-33, on March 19, 2021. The Montana Senate failed to pass it, 15-34, on April 23, 2021.

HB 340

EXPANSION OF HOLLYWOOD SUBSIDIES

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill provides a \$12 million annual tax credit carve-out to incentivize the film industry to come to Montana for their various projects. This expands an already existing \$10 million annual cronyism carve-out. Instead of providing specific well-connected industries with taxpayer-backed handouts, Montana

lawmakers should focus on creating a favorable business environment in the state by cutting regulations and taxes for all businesses and individuals. The Montana House passed the bill, 77-20, on April 28, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 31-19, on April 27, 2021.

HB 422

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF BROADBAND

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill allows local governments to expend taxpayer funds to operate broadband utilities to "compete" with private broadband companies. Such central-planning policies only lead to the inevitable government crowding out of the existing market, raising the overall cost of services for consumers and leading to increased taxation and regulation at the expense of taxpayers in a lose-lose proposition for Montanans. The Montana House failed to pass this bill, 35-64, on March 2, 2021. The Montana Senate did not take it up.

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SB 65

COVID LEGAL LIABILITY REFORMS (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill creates a safe harbor provision with civil liability protection for businesses and nonprofit organizations protecting them against frivolous COVID-19-related lawsuits. Importantly, the legislation provides immunity to these entities unless gross negligence or willful misconduct can be proven. This is critical for ensuring that small businesses and civic organizations that follow health code guidance can continue to operate, grow, and contribute to the economy without fear of reprisal from those seeking to profit off the pain inflicted by government mandates and the virus. The Montana House passed this bill, 64-36, on February 2, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 32-18, on February 4, 2021.

SB 101

INCREASING HEALTHCARE FREEDOM THROUGH DIRECT PATIENT CARE AGREEMENTS (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill allows patients to enter into direct patient care agreements with healthcare providers to arrange for the provision of healthcare services in exchange for the payment of a direct fee. This is a critical development for health care freedom and the ability of patients and doctors to interact without third-party interference from big government and crony insurance bureaucrats. Measures such as these provide for lower costs and higher overall quality of care for consumers, while restoring a doctor-patient relationship that has been harmed by decades of destructive federal policies. The Montana House passed it, 65-34, on March 11, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 33-16, on March 22, 2021.

SB 106

NEW LICENSING SCHEME (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill creates a new government-run licensing scheme for veterinary technicians, which includes onerous eligibility requirements, restrictive scope of practice regulations, and harsh fines. Lawmakers should be focused on eliminating burdensome licensing schemes, such as this one, that serve as barriers to entry, decrease competition, and often have outsized negative economic impacts on lower-income populations. The Montana House passed this bill, 87-10, on April 1, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 50-0, on April 12, 2021.

SB 149

AUTHORIZING HEALTHCARE SHARING MINISTRIES (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill increases healthcare freedom by allowing for the creation of healthcare sharing ministries in which members share medical expenses with

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other members in accordance with their religious and ethical beliefs. Additionally, the legislation exempts healthcare ministries from regulation as insurance. In the wake of the catastrophic implementation of Obamacare, millions of Americans not only lost their existing insurance, but also saw their costs more than double in states like Montana. In turn, Americans joined health sharing associations and health sharing ministries as an alternative and affordable way to defray expensive health care costs. The Montana House passed this bill, 65-33, on April 20, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 31-19, on April 23, 2021.

SB 159

INDIVIDUAL TAX RATE CUT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill cut Montana's top individual tax-bracket rate from 6.9 percent to 6.75 percent beginning in 2022. The state's top tax bracket rate kicks in after \$17,400 in taxable income. Montana's median individual income is around \$28,500 with median household income

around \$55,000, which means that this tax cut provides tax relief for the vast majority of Montanans. Reducing individuals' taxation is a pro-growth reform that also reduces the state government's ability to grow in size, scope, and cost given Montana's Balanced Budget requirement. The Montana House passed this bill, 65-32, on April 26, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 34-16, on April 27, 2021.

SB 199

FOOD FREEDOM ACT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill rolls back regulations on the cottage food industry and prohibits state health officials and local governments from imposing restrictions on homemade food and goods including farm-to-table products, steer-to-steak, and home-processed products sold directly to consumers at farmers markets and other community events. Additionally, the legislation legalizes the sale of raw milk with limited restrictions. Deregulation increases economic growth by empowering individuals to

start and grow businesses without government intervention. The Montana House passed this bill, 70-26, on April 9, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 32-18, on April 15, 2021.

SB 399

SIMPLIFYING THE TAX CODE AND CUTTING TAXES

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill eliminates numerous state tax credits in an attempt to simplify the state's tax code. Furthermore, the legislation aligns the calculations required on state tax forms to more closely resemble those on federal tax forms to ease the burden on taxpayers during the filing period. Importantly, the bill lowers the state's top income tax bracket to 6.5 percent for households. Lowering the overall tax burden and simplifying the tax code are key measures which increase economic growth. The Montana House passed this bill, 67-31, on April 26, 2021. The Montana Senate passed it, 30-20, on April 27, 2021.

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