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DISTRICT 14 **ASHLEY AUNE**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CAPITOL REPORT

February 1, 2023



Last week, I joined the House General Laws Committee for a 9-hour hearing regarding 8 anti-LGBTQ bills.

Hello K.D.,

I hope this email finds you well and staying warm on this exceptionally cold day! It's been a busy few weeks here in the legislature. **Last week, with just 25 hours notice, House Republicans held hearings on 8 different bills aimed at keeping trans kids from participating in school athletics, criminalizing parents and doctors for providing gender-affirming care, and banning drag show performances.**

Additionally, the **Elections Committee heard several bills aimed at gutting the citizen-led initiative petition process.** (Read more below)

As an ex-officio member of all committees, I participated in the 13 hours of hearings that day, and my biggest takeaway is this: **Missouri Republicans are simply not focused on the issues that really matter to folks.**

As you know, I spent months this past year knocking on doors and talking with my neighbors about how we can make this state an even better place to live, work and raise a family. **The policies you told me you care about include education, school safety, mental healthcare access, veterans issues, childcare and public safety—not hurting LGBTQ+ kids, criminalizing parents and taking even more political power away from Missouri citizens.**

This is just the beginning, folks. **I anticipate a lot more controversial conversations to take place between now and the end of session** in May, and I assure you I'll be there every step of the way—standing up for marginalized communities and defending our ability to participate in our democracy. As always, thanks for checking in. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do for you.

Take Care,



Representative Ashley Aune
District 14 | (573) 751-3618

Legislative Update

HOUSE COMMITTEE ENDORSES GUTTING THE INITIATIVE PROCESS

On straight party-line votes, the House Elections and Elected Officials Committee on Jan. 26 voted to advance four proposed constitutional amendments that either seek to effectively gut the initiative petition process, make it more difficult to amend the Missouri Constitution or both. Majority Republicans supported the measures, while minority Democrats opposed them.

The initiative petition process empowers Missourians to propose and enact legislation independently of the legislature. In recent years, it successfully has been used to enact several issues the Republican-controlled General Assembly had long blocked, including **Medicaid expansion, legislative ethics reform and legalizing medical and adult recreational marijuana use.**

As result of being bypassed on these and other issues they

REPUBLICAN BILLS TARGET TRANSGENDER CHILDREN, DRAG SHOWS

During a 10-hour hearing that stretched into the early morning hours of Jan. 25, the House General Laws Committee considered six Republican bills tightly restricting medical care for transgender children and limiting their participation in youth sports, along with two bills to criminalize drag performances. The bills are part of a national GOP push against LGBTQ rights.

In an attempt to reduce public participation, the hearing was announced with just barely more than the 24-hour minimum public notice required by law. As has happened in previous years, however, **the tactic didn't work and transgender children, along with their parents and supporters, still flooded the Capitol to oppose the bills, far outnumbering the handful of bill proponents who showed up to testify.**

oppose, **Republicans have prioritized making it virtually impossible to enact laws or constitutional changes through the initiative.** While some measures would raise the minimum number of signatures required for an initiative to qualify for the ballot, most would impose some kind of supermajority requirement for ratifying constitutional amendments, thus allowing a minority of voters to thwart the will of the majority.

SENATE PANEL CONSIDERS ELIMINATING CORPORATE INCOME TAX

On the heels of a \$2-billion-a-year individual income tax cut primarily **benefiting the wealthy that's expected to put Missouri government on shaky financial ground within the next couple years,** the Senate Economic Development and Tax Policy Committee on Jan. 24 heard legislation to completely eliminate the state's corporate income tax. Doing away with the tax is estimated to cost the state another \$712.14 million a year in lost revenue.

Missouri first enacted its corporate income tax, along with the state's individual income tax, in 1917. The corporate rate topped out at 6.25 percent in 1993 and remained at that level until a series of reductions over the last decade dropped it to the current rate of 4 percent. Starting in 2024, [Senate Bill 93](#) would reduce the corporate rate by one percentage point each year until the tax was completely eliminated in 2027.

Three of the bills seek to ban transgender children from participating in girls' sports, while another three would prohibit transgender children from receiving gender-affirming medical care. While the bill's sponsors said they are necessary to protect children, opponents said they would interfere with the ability of transgender children to live their lives as who they are, jeopardizing both their physical and mental well-being.

The remaining two bills would make it a crime for someone to perform in front of children dressed as a member of the opposite sex – **legislation that seems to ignore the long tradition of drag performances in mainstream,** all-ages entertainment that includes several Shakespeare plays, comedian Milton Berle's 1950s variety show, the long-running TV series *M*A*S*H* in the 1970s and the hit films *Tootsie* and *Mrs. Doubtfire* in the 1980s and 1990s, respectively.

The committee took no immediate action on any of the bills but is expected to advance at least some of the eight measures at a later hearing.

COMMITTEE ADVANCES PROHIBITION ON TEACHING ABOUT RACISM

The Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee on Nov. 24 voted for a bill that would prohibit public schools from teaching about the past and present impact of racism on society and require them to teach "the principles of American civics and patriotism."

Senate Bill 4 would ban K-12 schools from teaching "critical race theory," **a concept taught in some law schools that examines racism's impact on institutions but that is not taught in Missouri elementary or secondary schools.** However, many Republican lawmakers here and elsewhere commonly mischaracterize CRT in an effort to prohibit any discussion of race or racism in public schools.

Tax Tips



To obtain a No Tax Due Certificate through our online system, businesses must:

- ✓ Have a valid registration with the Missouri Department of Revenue;
- ✓ Make sales at retail in Missouri; and
- ✓ Have no sales or withholding tax delinquencies.

Learn more about our No Tax Due system at <https://buff.ly/2UbvSbj>.

Health and Wellness

THE NORTHLAND GRANDFAMILIES PROGRAM

FEBRUARY SUPPORT GROUPS

TUES, FEBRUARY 14TH FROM 10-11:30 AM
AT VINEYARD CHURCH (ROOM 152 A & B)
12300 ARROWHEAD TRAFFICWAY, KANSAS CITY, MO 64165
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

WED, FEBRUARY 15TH FROM 10:00 - 11:30 AM
AT PLATTE WOODS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH FROM 10 - 11:30 AM
AT THE MAPLE WOODS HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING,
2ND FLR UNITY ROOM
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



THE NORTHLAND GRANDFAMILIES PROGRAM OFFERS
SUPPORT TO ANY FAMILIES CURRENTLY IN A KINSHIP
ROLE SUCH AS A GRANDPARENT CARING FOR A
GRANDCHILD OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBER.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT BECKY FRANKLIN AT
BECKYF@TRI-COUNTYMHS.ORG OR
(816) 468-0400 X330

PLATTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Are you a grandparent or other family member caring for a youth loved one?
[Northland Grandfamilies](#) offers programs and support groups to assist those in this
important caregiver role.



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