

# HB 670: The FACE Act

Introduced by Representative Powell (Dem, HD 21, Allegheny)  
Current status: On House Calendar, Second Consideration

## **Background:**

HB 670: The FACE Act, is a freedom to access clinic entrances act that would protect the fundamental right to access health services while clarifying the extent of our neighbors' protected free speech. It is a law that balances patients' and providers' inherent rights to receive and provide health care with those who seek to share their views outside of clinics.

## **If enacted, this bill would:**

- Prohibit Physical obstruction of clinic entrances.
- Prohibit threats of force/ actual force used to intimidate or harm patients or healthcare providers.
- Prohibit property damage at facilities providing reproductive services, including pharmacies.

## **Why we need The FACE Act:**

- All patients and providers should be able to access and provide reproductive health care without fear of intimidation and/or violence just because someone is personally opposed to reproductive healthcare like abortion.
- Earlier this year, Trump pardoned 23 violators of the Federal FACE Act, a law that was signed in 1994 with bipartisan support in the wake of violent actions against abortion providers and clinics- the Federal Administration has made it clear that we need our own FACE in PA.
- Also this year, an anti-abortion shooter murdered Minnesota lawmakers. The shooter also had a target list that included Planned Parenthood providers and clinics.
- Incidents of vandalism, assault and battery, threats of harm or death threats, stalking, and harassment targeting abortion clinics, providers, and patients have continuously increased over many years, including the targeted murder of individual abortion providers.
- Providers and clinic staff must live in fear daily that they may be attacked for doing their job. There has been an alarming trend towards vandalism of clinics and trespassing at clinics, with 169 cases of vandalism reported between 2023-2024 and 621 instances of trespassing reported.
- This includes most recently an invasion of the Delaware County Women's Center in July. Two of the pardoned FACE Act violators participated in this trespassing.

## **What's next:**

We urge the PA House to take up and pass this important piece of legislation and send it to the PA Senate.

To read the bill  
click [HERE](#) or  
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# HB 1315: Reforming Name Change Procedures

## SB 521: Removing Publication Requirements for Name Changes

HB 1315: Reforming Name Change Procedures  
Introduced by Representative Ben Sanchez (Dem, HD 153, Montgomery)  
Current Status: Referred to House Judiciary

SB 521: Removing Publication Requirements for Name Changes  
Introduced by Senator Katie Muth (Dem, SD 44, Chester)  
Current Status: Referred to Senate Judiciary

### Background:

Currently in Pennsylvania, a name-change applicant must submit a petition to the court and publish notice of the hearing in two newspapers and have their court dockets made publicly accessible online. The publication fee for one of those papers is more than \$200, which typically comes from the petitioner's pocket. This requirement puts some individuals' safety at risk for the rest of their lives, for no purpose. The publication requirement should be eliminated, as it no longer serves a purpose.

### If enacted, these bills would:

- Will increase safety by eliminating the notification requirement for name changes.
- Will seal name change files automatically if the individual requesting the name change is doing so to affirm the gender identity.
- Expands access to legal name change by eliminating an antiquated process that imposes an unnecessary financial burden and can extend the process.

### Why we need to modernize name change procedures:

- The majority of states recognize that publication is risky, costly, and unnecessary. Currently, only 9 states have a blanket requirement for publication.
- This protection is vital, and in fact, should be broadened to include survivors of domestic violence, minors, and potentially others. Ideally, since it no longer serves a purpose, the publication requirement should be cut entirely.
- Publication endangers transgender individuals, domestic violence survivors, and others and puts them at risk of violence, harassment, and/or discrimination.
- Survivors of domestic violence, stalking, or other crimes can be easily tracked by offenders if publication is required.
- Once the name change request is publicized, the danger never goes away. A google search of someone's name will reveal their new name years later.
- Publication creates a risk from broader searches, as well. A search for "minor name change announcement" on google produces public notices of minors' name changes made years before.

### What is next?

We urge Judiciary Committee Chairs to hold a vote in both chambers.



To read the bill click [HERE](#) (House) or [HERE](#) (Senate) or scan QR Codes.



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# HB200 & SB906 The Family Care Act

## HB200: Family Care Act

Introduced by Representative Jen O'mara

Current Status: Voted out of Labor and Industry Committee, waiting for vote on House floor

## SB 906: Family Care Act

Introduced by Senator Devlin Robinson

Current Status: Referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee

### Background:

In Pennsylvania, there are no mandates for paid family leave. Nationally, the Family Medical Leave Act establishes baselines for businesses with more than 50 employees, but does not mandate pay during leave. The Family Care Act would create a statewide public paid family leave program that would support working Pennsylvanians during qualifying issues when leave is necessary.

### If enacted, these bills would:

- Create a general fund similar to unemployment in which when applicable, employees could take paid leave for medical, family, or safety related issues as defined in the bill
- Ensure working Pennsylvanians had access to benefits that improve their outcomes, productivity for employers, and economic outcomes for the state without over burdening small businesses
- Reduce the need for social safety net programs and public support
- Improve health and outcomes for individuals and family members with increased access to medical support
- Improve maternal health and infant outcomes with expanded access to maternal and bonding leave

### Why we need paid family leave in PA:

- The family / individual - access to paid family leave allows individuals to take care of themselves or family members while maintaining income, ensuring they can focus on the health and needs of themselves or their loved ones while maintaining financial stability.
- The employer - small and micro businesses cannot always afford to provide benefits that support their employees - having a state program allows for employees to benefit without the burden on businesses. Studies have shown public paid leave programs increase productivity, increase retention rates, and financially benefit employers.
- The economy - decreasing the number of employees out of work through accessible paid family leave opportunities results in greater long term spending in local and state economies

### What is next?

We urge the House leadership to put the Family Care Act up for a vote on the House floor and Senate L&I Chair Robinson to hold a vote in committee.



To read the bill click  
[HERE](#) (House) or  
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# HB630 Equal Pay Law

## HB630 Equal Pay Law

Introduced by Representative Melissa Shusterman

Current Status: Voted out of the House, waiting for consideration in the Senate

### **Background:**

There are many factors that impact the gender wage gap which still persists today - and is widening in many categories. The Equal Pay Law would address some of the factors that widen this gap through anti-discrimination and anti-retaliation provisions, financial support to investigate complaints, and banning prior pay from consideration for compensation.

### **If enacted, these bills would:**

- Prohibits paying employees less than the rate paid to employees of the opposite sex or different race/ethnicity for equal work.
- Restricts employers from asking for or using an applicant's salary history to determine wages.
- Increases penalties for employers, with proposed fines ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per violation.
- Establishes an Equal Pay Enforcement Fund and strengthens the state's authority to investigate complaints.

### **Why we need wage equity in PA:**

- Not only does the gender wage gap persist, but it is widening. From women on average making \$0.83 to the dollar of men in 2023 to \$0.81 in 2024, policy is necessary to combat this persistent and pervasive issue.
- When race and ethnicity are taken into consideration, the gap widens even further
  - Black women make \$0.65 to the dollar of white men
  - Latinas make \$0.58 to the dollar of white men
- Rollbacks in protects at the federal level are making it increasingly more important to add protections at the state level
- Wage gaps paired with care taking responsibilities typically filled by women results in decreased financial stability and increased reliance on social systems.

### **What is next?**

We urge the Senate to take up this bill for a vote in committee and on the floor.

To read the bill  
click [HERE](#) or  
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# Small Necessities Leave Act

Small Necessities Leave Act: Introduced by Senator Art Haywood  
Current Status: Co-sponsorship memo introduced in the Senate

## **Background:**

Pennsylvania does not currently mandate any paid time off be provided to employees, yet for a variety of reasons, employees may need to take paid time off of work to meet their needs, or the needs of family members.

## **If enacted, these bills would:**

- Provide a total of 24 hours paid time off in a 12 month cycle
- Provide protections from retaliation for using PTO

## **Why we need paid time off in PA:**

- From time to time, everyone needs to take time off - for doctors appointments, children's illnesses, sick family members, and more. For individuals not making a living wage (the minimum wage in PA is \$7.25 an hour despite the cost of living requiring between 3-7 times that to be financially stable) taking unpaid time off can lead to financial challenges
- Benefit to parents - the ability to go to school meetings and appointments related to their children while not losing income reduces the reliance on publicly funded social systems
- Benefit to employers - employees are more likely to stay with their current employer when benefits are provided, reducing the costs of searching for, hiring, and training new employees due to decreased turnover rates
- Benefits to the economy - the more financially stable an individual or family is, the more they participate in the economy; purchasing more goods and services, resulting in increased revenue
- Benefit to domestic violence survivors - getting a PFA (protection from abuse) is an important step towards safety for survivors, but that requires time off work to petition for a PFA and go to court to finalize it. Without paid time off, many survivors cannot afford to take time, resulting in increasing the risk they face.

## **What is next?**

We are sharing the importance of this bill with legislators to gain support.

To read the memo  
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