



League of Women Voters of Alabama

TAKE ACTION TUESDAYS

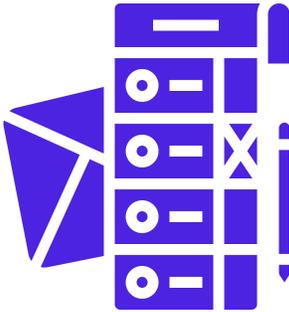
Actions for Tuesday January 28, 2025

This week's Call includes ACTION on:

- **HB77 - Deliver Absentee Ballot for Disabled Voters**
- **HB89 - Preemptive Medicaid for Expectant Mothers**
- **HB4 - Jail the Librarians**

LWVAL recommends supporting HB77 and HB89 and opposing HB4. Read on to find out why. Requested actions for today follow

the background and talking points. Click [<HERE>](#) to go straight to the actions.



SUPPORT HB77

(Rep. Adline Clarke)

Deliver Absentee Ballot for Disabled Voters

[Click to Read HB77](#)

BACKGROUND

Under existing Alabama law, an application for an absentee ballot as well as the ballot packet itself may only be delivered to the absentee election manager by the applicant. In Alabama, no exception is made for disabled voters.

The federal law, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requires the state and local government to ensure that people with disabilities have a **full and equal** opportunity to vote. The ADA provisions apply to all aspects of voting.

TALKING POINTS

- Current State law prohibits pickup or delivery of a voter's absentee application or absentee ballot package by anyone except the voter, regardless of the voter's health or disability.
- HB77 would allow a registered voter who is disabled to designate an individual to deliver an absentee ballot application to the absentee election manager. Those voters could also designate an individual to deliver the completed, absentee ballot packet to the absentee election manager.
- HB77 improves accessibility for voters who are physically or mentally disabled. It is a crucial bill to fix disparities between



SUPPORT HB89 (Rep. Marilyn Lands)

Preemptive Medicaid for Expectant Mothers

[Click to Read HB89](#)

BACKGROUND

When a low income mother in Alabama becomes pregnant she is eligible to receive Medicaid funded prenatal care if she meets certain income eligibility standards. This care, starting in early pregnancy, is crucial to ensuring the health of the mother and the successful delivery of a healthy baby.

Currently Medicaid coverage is only provided after the woman receives a positive pregnancy test administered by an authorized health provider. However many low income women cannot get into the provider for a test without insurance coverage. The result is a stalemate: no or late health care, preterm births, maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. All of these outcomes have been documented to be far too high in Alabama.

HB 89 addresses the problem these mothers encounter by making them presumptively eligible for Medicaid insured care even before a physician or other health provider has administered the required pregnancy test.

KEY STATISTICS

- Alabama has the third highest rate of maternal mortality in the nation.

- 1 in 2 births are covered by Medicaid in Alabama.
- Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy complications.

TALKING POINTS

- Ensuring that pregnant women in Alabama get prenatal health care early in their pregnancies so that healthy babies are born to healthy mothers should be a goal we all espouse, regardless of political party affiliation.
- Access to Medicaid funded care is currently being blocked for eligible women by regulations that require women to see a health care provider before Medicaid is granted.
- Providing earlier access to health care for pregnant women will lead to improved birth outcomes and lower state expenditures on birth complications and subsequent morbidity.
- Currently the Medicaid program in Alabama spends approximately \$200 million for the complications of a preterm birth (This is a lower bound estimate). State dollars in this expenditure figure are approximately \$54.5 million. Access to early prenatal care could reduce this expenditure significantly.

Use the links below to access additional information on maternal healthcare.

Alabama Arise Toolkit on Maternal Health:

<https://www.alarise.org/resources/the-alabama-maternal-health-toolkit/?vcrmeid=C5st8ocb8ExE6ldGzMjw&vcrmiid=TUTKX3UX7UyEoZlgC45RzQ>

View the LWVAL January 23 forum on 'Improving Maternal Outcomes in Alabama': <https://youtu.be/hLgiuSSJ78c?si=fSlbFonnGXWondxq>

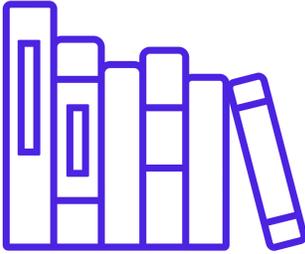
View/Download the maternal health data presented in the Forum: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OUQsxSoUe3By8xDaqWo34UftOd5VYXzv/view>

HB77 and HB89 ACTIONS NEEDED

Contact House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter and ask him to

- 1) Put HB77 on the CC&E Committee schedule early in the session and give it a favorable recommendation
- 2) Put HB89 on the Ways and Means Committee schedule early in the session and give it a favorable recommendation

Speaker Ledbetter's Contact Info:
334-261-0505 nathaniel.ledbetter@alhouse.gov



OPPOSE HB4
(Rep. Arnold Moody)

"Jail the Librarians"

[Click to Read HB4](#)

BACKGROUND

Alabama HB4 proposes drastic and unconstitutional changes to how public and school libraries operate, threatening the rights of librarians and the access to diverse materials for our communities. This bill not only undermines our libraries' mission to educate and inform but also violates basic principles of free speech and due process.

Proposing criminal penalties for librarians based on the content of library materials is not only unprecedented but also a dangerous overreach that could deter individuals from the profession and lead to a chilling effect on the availability of a broad range of educational resources.

It is crucial that we stand together to oppose HB4 and protect our right to free access to information. Reach out to your state senators and representatives to express your concerns about the dangers this bill presents to free speech and public education.

HB4 ACTION NEEDED

Contact your representation and tell them that you strongly oppose HB4 and that you want them to let the bill die in committee.

Information to locate your district, representative and contact information follows below.

Contact Information for your Representatives

You can find the names of your representatives and districts here:

[Districts and Representatives](#)

You can find contact information for your state representatives and senators here:

[State Representatives](#)

[State Senators](#)

Members and Friends, please remember that.....



**By taking these actions-
YOU will help create positive change in Alabama!**

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subscribe to the LWVAL Interest Group, click the link below.**

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