

# Montana Association of Christians (MAC) Report

Dan Krebill, Presbytery of Yellowstone representative on the MAC Board

The Montana Association of Christians (MAC) becomes a notable presence each time that the Montana State Legislature is in session, as it is during these winter months of 2017. The 4 priority issues that are being pursued this session are:

## 1. Abolition of Death Penalty

MAC opposes capital punishment and calls upon the Montana Legislature to abolish the death penalty.

## 2. Children & Families (Children's Mental Health, Hunger, Cost of Air Ambulance)

MAC calls upon the State Legislature and all the people of Montana to recognize the rights of children, to help the hungry, and access emergency care without fear of financial devastation.

## 3. Prisoner Re-Integration

MAC is looking at all aspects of the criminal justice system and seeking ways to reduce incarceration while increasing public safety, and increasing the success of prisoners returning to our communities.

## 4. Immigration / Hospitality toward vetted and documented immigrants and humane treatment for all

MAC seeks to love our neighbors and welcome the stranger by promoting immigration legislation, public policies and business practices that are humane and just.

MAC is present in the legislative session in at least 3 different ways.

1. MAC employs a part time lobbyist throughout the session to testify before legislative committees, and to talk with individual legislators to apprise them of positions that MAC has taken and to encourage their support of those positions. Attorney Abigail St. Lawrence is our lobbyist. She was raised Presbyterian in Great Falls and is an energetic and passionate advocate for MAC.
2. A "MAC Day at the Legislature" was held on Monday, January 23, when over 180 Christians from MAC churches came to Helena for the day to engage in citizen lobbying of legislators on the 4 MAC legislative priorities. At least 8 people from our presbytery participated this year. Lunch is provided for legislators as a time when they can talk with individuals and share ideas. The legislators that I spoke with were genuinely interested in hearing of the priorities.
3. Citizens from MAC churches are encouraged to stay abreast of the issues and contact legislators as specific bills come up for debate and consideration. For more information on how you can be part of this effort, visit <http://www.macmt.org/legislative-agenda.html>.