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**House Leadership Statement on SB 437**

Helena, MT – SB 437, which defines sex in Montana law, has been passed by both chambers and remains on the desk of the House. Leadership has chosen to hold the bill to prevent it from being immediately tied up with ongoing litigation over a similar measure passed last session.

“Montanans sent us here to make law, not to let activist judges tear it down the moment the ink dries,” said Speaker Ler. “We refuse to hand the judiciary an easy path to lump these cases together and stall the will of the people. That’s why we are being deliberate with the timing on SB 437.”

Montana lawmakers have consistently acted to provide clarity in law by defining sex. SB 437 is the most recent measure to advance this principle and reflects the strong support of Montanans for protecting biological reality in statute.

“Let’s be clear: the problem isn’t lawmakers doing their job. The problem is a judiciary that has become more interested in playing politics than upholding law,” Speaker Ler continued. “By holding SB 437, we’re making sure this legislation has the strongest chance to stand. We will not sit back while partisan judges try to erase what the people’s representatives have enacted.”

SB 437 will ultimately be signed into law. House leadership will not apologize for taking the necessary steps to protect Montanans’ values from a judiciary that too often substitutes ideology for the Constitution.