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SB49-12/13: HB166

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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding HB166**
3 **February 6, 2013**
4 **SB49-12/13**

5 **Authored by: Eamon Ormseth, ASUM Senator**
6 **Sponsored by: Nicole Watkins, ASUM Senator; Shelby Ryann Dolezal, ASUM**
7 **Senator; Micah L. Nielsen, ASUM Business Manager; Zach Brown, ASUM**
8 **President;**
9

10 Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) represent over
11 15,000 students;

12
13 Whereas, the cost of higher education continues to grow throughout the nation;

14
15 Whereas, in 1970, the Montana state government provided for roughly 70% of the cost of
16 in-state public higher education for a full-time equivalent student;

17
18 Whereas, the Montana state government now contributes roughly 30% of the cost of in-
19 state public higher education, constituting a reduction of roughly 40% in state funding of
20 postsecondary education;

21
22 Whereas, higher education continues to remain an important personal economic
23 investment;

24
25 Whereas, a ballot referendum in 1986 created a state lottery of which the proceeds go
26 towards higher education, namely that of educator pensions;

27
28 Whereas, lottery proceeds are currently directed into the state general fund;

29
30 Whereas, HB166, by redirecting the lottery proceeds into a scholarship fund for students
31 enrolled in postsecondary institutions, would be commensurate with the general will of
32 the voters;

33
34 Whereas, recruiting and retaining high-performing high school students is an important
35 investment in Montana's economy

36
37 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that ASUM supports the passage of HB166;

38
39 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to
40 Representative Amanda Curtis, sponsor, and Representative Kristin Hansen, Chair of The
41 House Education Committee, for distribution to the members of the committee.

42
43 Passed by Committee: _____, 2013

44
45 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2013
46

47

48 Damara Simpson,
49 Relations and Affairs Chair

Bryn Hagfors,
Chair of the Senate