Spring 2011

SB18-10/11: Legislative Session

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana

Resolution Regarding Legislative Session

February 16, 2011

Senate Bill SB18-10/11

Authored by: Travis Suzuki, ASUM Senator

Whereas the City of Missoula passed City Ordinance Number 3428, An Ordinance of the Missoula City Council, Amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 9 Public Peace, Morals and Welfare to Add Chapter 9.64 Entitled “Illegal Discrimination” Generally Prohibiting Discriminatory Practices in the Areas of Employment, Public Accommodations and Housing on the Basis of Race, Color, National Origin, Ancestry, Religion, Creed, Sex, Age, Marital or Familial Status, Physical or Mental Disability, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression, on April 13, 2010;

Whereas City Ordinance 3428 defines “Gender identity or expression” as a gender-related identity expression, or behavior, regardless of the individual’s sex at birth and “Sexual orientation” means heterosexuality, bisexuality, or homosexuality;

Whereas the City of Missoula possesses a culture unique to other population centers within the State of Montana;

Whereas HB 516, An Act Prohibiting Local Governments from Enacting Ordinances, Resolutions, or Policies that Contain as a Protected Class and Classification not Specifically Included as a Protected Class Under State Law and Providing an Immediate Effective Date and a Retroactive Applicability Date, would nullify the existing Missoula City Ordinance;

Whereas the University of Montana is committed to providing a safe and non-discriminatory environment for students regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, military service, or sexual orientation;

Whereas the University of Montana has released an updated version of the Diversity Plan in 2010;

Whereas the Diversity Plan states in the Fifth Initiative to Embrace Diversity and Global Engagement by “Provide a dynamic educational environment by respecting, welcoming, encouraging and celebrating diversity in all its forms.” and “Create a campus climate that respects and celebrates diversity, and rewards enhancement of diversity by individuals and at the department level.”;

Whereas the Associated Students of the University of Montana unanimously passed SB4-10/11 ‘Resolution Regarding The University Diversity Plan’ on September 29, 2010;
Whereas the Associated Students of the University of Montana has previously supported the LGBTQQI Community through many campaigns such as the It Gets Better Project;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana does not support the passage of HB 516;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana endorses Missoula City Ordinance 3428;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana instruct Student Lobbyist Jenifer Gursky to oppose HB 516.

Passed by ASUM Senate with unanimous consent: February 16, 2011