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Spring 2011

### SB30-10/11: Federal Pell Grants

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#### Recommended Citation

DeMars, Brandon; Rhea, Patrick; and Edmunds, Jeff, "SB30-10/11: Federal Pell Grants" (2011). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 228.

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Regarding Federal Pell Grants**  
3                                   **March 23, 2011**

4                                   **Senate Bill SB30-10/11**

5                   **Authored by: Brandon DeMars, UM Student, Patrick Rhea, ASUM Senator,**  
6                                   **and Jeff Edmunds, ASUM Senator**

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8  
9   Whereas the primary responsibility of the Associated Students of the University of  
10   Montana, as stated in its Constitution, is to serve as an advocate for the general welfare of  
11   the students (Article 2, Section 1);

12  
13   Whereas the general welfare of the students of The University of Montana is promoted by  
14   assuring affordable access to a quality education for all;

15  
16   Whereas it is not in the interest of students' general welfare for any student to be unable  
17   to afford to continue their education at The University of Montana;

18  
19   Whereas six-thousand students at The University of Montana are eligible for Pell Grants;

20  
21   Whereas more than 40% of students at the Mountain Campus of the University of  
22   Montana receive need-based assistance;

23  
24   Whereas 85% of students at The University of Montana College of Technology campuses  
25   receive need-based financial assistance;

26  
27   Whereas Pell Grants are awarded based on expected family contributions and income,  
28   having recipients submit a financial and documentable need for the specific assistance;

29  
30   Whereas the proposed cuts to Pell Grant funding would result in 626 students at the  
31   University of Montana losing their eligibility to receive federal ~~education~~ *financial*  
32   support *for higher education*;

33  
34   Whereas financial stability has been shown to play a direct role in the likelihood that a  
35   student will drop out of a higher education institution;

36  
37   Whereas proposed cuts to the Pell Grant funding would detrimentally impact locally  
38   displaced workers and their families who are currently attending The University of  
39   Montana to acquire the skills needed to obtain future employment;

40  
41   Whereas the United States House of Representatives has voted to cut Pell Grant funding  
42   by \$5.7 billion;

43  
44   Whereas a decrease in enrollment due to financial limitations would negatively impact  
45   the Missoula economic community;

46

47 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of The University of Montana  
48 publically opposes any reduction of Federal Pell Grants;

49  
50 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that the ASUM Senate directs the ASUM President  
51 to contact Senator Tester, Senator Baucus, and Representative Rehberg regarding ~~the~~  
52 ~~these~~ *this concern and directs the ASUM President to forward a copy of this resolution to*  
53 *the Montana Congressional Delegation.*

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57 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2011

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59 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2011

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64 \_\_\_\_\_  
65 Travis Suzuki,  
66 Relations and Affairs Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Amanda Stovall,  
Chair of the Senate