

Spring 2011

SB30-10/11: Federal Pell Grants

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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