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Fall 2008

### SB26-08/09: Opportunity Maine Program

Siri Smillie

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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**  
2 **Resolution regarding the Opportunity Maine Program**  
**October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**Senate Bill Number 26**  
**Authored by: Siri Smillie, ASUM Vice President**  
**Sponsored by: Trevor Hunter, ASUM President**

3  
4  
5 Whereas, tuition at Montana colleges and universities, fees, housing, and other costs associated with  
6 attending college has increased much faster than the rate of inflation;

7  
8 Whereas, most students must take out loans, both public and private, to afford a college degree;

9  
10 Whereas, students are prohibited from attending college or finishing their degree because of the high cost  
11 and fear of lifelong debt;

12  
13 Whereas, students are often discouraged from staying in Montana to enter fields such as teaching because  
14 the salaries offered are not sufficient to repay student loans;

15  
16 Whereas, the value of a college education, both to the graduate and the community, should be fully  
17 recognized and rewarded;

18  
19 Whereas, a better-trained, well educated workforce is good for our state and our economy;

20  
21 Whereas, Opportunity Maine, a program enacted in 2008 in Maine, increases the number of students who  
22 can attend and complete college by giving tax credits to students with debt who stay in Maine after  
23 graduation and to businesses which pay off the student debt of their employees;

24  
25 Whereas, Opportunity Maine was founded by student and community leaders committed to advancing  
26 sustainable economic prosperity;

27  
28 Therefore Let It Be Resolved that The Associated Students of The University of Montana support the  
29 adaptation and adoption of the Opportunity Maine program in Montana.

30  
31 Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM will provide copies of this resolution to the local legislative  
32 delegation and continue to lead and support these efforts.  
33

Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

Passed by Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair  
Andrew Dusek

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Senate  
Siri Smillie