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Spring 2008

### SB43-07/08: Support of The Healthy Montana Kids Plan

Alexander P. Gosline

Bradley Seamen

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*Exhibit B*

**The Associated Students of The University of Montana  
Resolution in Support of The Healthy Montana Kids Plan  
April 23, 2008  
Senate Bill Number 43-07/08  
Authored by: Senator Alexander P. Gosline, Bradley Seamen**

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Whereas, The University of Montana is an institution of higher education committed to supporting the health and futures of our youth populations;

*Whereas, many students at The University of Montana have children themselves:*

Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana have shown a strong commitment to support the expansion of eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid Children's coverage;

Whereas, uninsured children living in families with a combined family income of no more than 250% of the federal poverty level will be eligible;

Whereas, about 30,000 children will be covered by this expansion;

Whereas, the \$22 million in state money will be matched with \$75 million of federal money to cover the expansion and to stimulate the Montana economy overall;

Whereas, the \$22 million will be generated from tax dollars already given to the state on premiums insurance companies already pay to the state. One third of those tax collections will be placed in a special account with the state, only to be spent to cover uninsured children through the Healthy Montana Kids Plan;

Whereas, every child deserves to have ~~the~~ proper medical care;

Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana strongly support the right of the citizens to have a direct say in where their tax dollars are spent by prioritizing children's health insurance programs;

Whereas, the early, preventative treatment that insured children receive is less expensive than the late stage treatment that uninsured children receive, and by enacting this plan will be more likely to seek coverage lowering overall healthcare costs.

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that The Associated Students of The University of Montana strongly support and endorse the Healthy Montana Kids Plan, and encourage the citizens of Montana to do the same.

*Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that the ASUM SPA work in coalition with Healthy Montana Kids on this issue.*

Passed by Committee: April 23, 2008

Passed by Senate: April 23, 2008

Chair

Chair of the Senate  
Tara Ness

*14-1 on a wall call rate*