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SB72-14/15: Resolution Regarding the Affordable Care Act and Student Employment

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding the Affordable Care Act and Student Employment**

3 **March 11, 2015**

4 **SB72-14/15**

5 **Authored by: Mike Hopkins, MAS Lobbyist and Ryan Hazen, ASUM Business**
6 **Manager**

7 **Sponsored by:**

8
9 Whereas, the University of Montana (UM) currently employs thousands of students and
10 will employ thousands more in the future;

11
12 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) employs a
13 large number of students;

14
15 Whereas, students may have multiple jobs on campus or within the Montana University
16 System;

17
18 Whereas, under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), students become eligible for healthcare
19 once they have worked an average of 30 hours per week during a six-month-stability
20 period;

21
22 Whereas, UM must pay employer contributions for these students, through ACA, that can
23 exceed hundreds of dollars per month, until the student is deemed to no longer meet the
24 30 hours per week average;

25
26 Whereas, students will be limited to 29.75 hours of work per week combined across all
27 UM departments in which they are employed, so that they will not cross the 30 hours per
28 week threshold, at which time UM will have to pay the employer contribution for the
29 students' healthcare;

30
31 Whereas, UM department budgets will be unable to support additional healthcare
32 payments for student employees who exceed the 30 hours of work per week average and
33 will, in many cases, be forced to terminate the students' employment if student
34 employees exceed the 29.75 hours per week allowance;

35
36 Whereas, many students employed on campus already exceed the 30 hours of work per
37 week average by working in multiple departments within the UM system;

38
39 Whereas, students who exceed the 30 hours of work per week average plan and manage
40 their finances based on that level of income;

41
42 Whereas, students will be forced in many cases to reduce working hours within the UM
43 system by having to choose between jobs in order to bring themselves under the 30 hours
44 of work per week average;

45

46 Whereas, students who are forced to reduce their working hours will be likely to scale
47 back their monthly expenditures or seek additional employment outside of the UM
48 system;

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50 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM strongly opposes the undue burden being
51 placed on student employment by provisions within the Affordable Care Act;

52
53 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges Montana’s Congressman Ryan
54 Zinke, and Montana’s United States Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines to work
55 together to formulate and pass into law an exemption for students from these specific
56 provisions within the Affordable Care Act;

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58 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges Governor Steve Bullock and the
59 Montana Legislature to work together to address this issue in the upcoming legislative
60 session;

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62 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the
63 following: Senator Jon Tester, Senator Steve Daines, Congressman Ryan Zinke,
64 Governor Steve Bullock, Montana House Majority Leader Keith Regier, Montana House
65 Minority Leader Chuck Hunter, Montana Senate Majority Leader Matthew Rosendale,
66 Montana Senate Minority Leader Jon Susso, and President of the University of Montana
67 Royce Engstrom.

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84 Passed by Committee: _____, 2015

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90 Sean McQuillan,
91 ASUM Chair

Brandon Bart,
Student Political Action Committee Chair