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SB50-16/17: Resolution Regarding Adding Sexual Orientation as a Protected Class in Montana

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Adding Sexual Orientation as a Protected Class in Montana
January 30th, 2017
SB50-16/17
Authored by: Elle Fettig, ASUM Senator
Sponsored by:

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests of the University of Montana (UM) student body;

Whereas, ASUM represents students with a wide variety of sexual orientations and gender identities;

Whereas, The UM Policy on Protected Classes & Prohibited Discrimination reads:

"The University of Montana supports a diverse community accepting of all individuals regardless of their race, color, religion, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, age, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation."

Whereas, Title 49, Part 3 of Montana State Code, The Montana Human Rights Act, enumerates eight (8) primary areas of “Prohibited Discriminatory Practices,” which include employment, public accommodations, housing, financing and credit transactions, education, discrimination by the state, insurance and retirement plans, maternity leave;

Whereas, Each of the eight (8) areas of prohibited discriminatory practices list the following as protected classes:

"because of race, creed, religion, color, or national origin or because of age, physical or mental disability, marital status, or sex"

Whereas, A citizen’s sexual orientation is not included in the aforementioned list of protected classes in Montana;

Whereas, Twenty-one (21) states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation to add sexual orientation as a protected class;

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) supports legislative efforts to add ‘gender identity or expression and sexual orientation’ to the list of protected classes under Title 49 of Montana State Code during the 65th Legislature;

Passed by Committee: _____________________________, 2017
Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2017

1 http://www.umt.edu/eq/classes/
2 http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca_toc/49_2_3.htm
Connor Fitzpatrick  
Chair of Relations and Affairs

Elizabeth Engebretson  
Chair of the Senate