SB25: Resolution Regarding Gender Neutral Restrooms on the University of Montana Campus

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Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) “represents, empowers and advocates for UM students”;

Whereas, Diversity is one of the six core values of ASUM;

Whereas, The University of Montana currently has 22 gender neutral bathrooms across campus, located in Eck Hall, the University Center, University Hall, Corbin Hall, the International House, the George and Jane Dennison Theater, the Music Building, Law School, PAR/TV Building, Math Building, Gallagher Business Building, Curry Health Center, Fitness and Recreation Center, Fine Arts Building, including one in each of the Residence Halls;

Whereas, Many of these buildings listed house high volumes of students each day and access to these gender neutral bathrooms can be very limited, especially where there is only one gender neutral bathroom in the building;

Whereas, Having broad access to gender neutral bathrooms across campus is important to current students, as well as to potential or future students at UM;

Whereas, UM 2020’s diversity section under core values reads:

“...The University of Montana seeks to enhance diversity by recognizing and embracing the differences in age, ideas and perspectives, disabilities, abilities, creed, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, national origin, race, religious and spiritual beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, and the socioeconomic and geographic composition of its faculty, administrative professionals, staff, and students. In its effort to enhance diversity, The University of Montana recognizes that particular focused effort must be placed on including members of groups who have historically been subject to discrimination and are still underrepresented in the campus community.”;

Whereas, The University of Montana houses its very own LGBTQ Allies program and understands how important it is for the LGBTQ community to have equal access to gender neutral bathrooms as cisgender males/females have to regular male/female bathrooms;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM calls upon the University of Montana to have at least one gender neutral bathroom in every campus building and all future campus buildings;
Therefore, ASUM asks that the University of Montana commits to including at least two gender neutral bathrooms in buildings such as Eck Hall and in other large facilities, including the Washington-Grizzly Football Stadium;

Therefore, ASUM urges the University of Montana to prioritize implementing gender neutral bathrooms in the Lommasson building, as it's a key visiting center and the majority of visiting students utilize this building;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that this resolution be sent to Sheila Stearns, Interim President of the University of Montana; Seth Bodnar, President of the University of Montana; Paula Short, Director of Communications for the President; Rhondie Voorhees, Dean of Students; Jessica Weltman, Director of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action and Title IX Coordinator; Kevin Krebsbach, Director of Facilities Services, and UM Allies.

Passed by Committee: __________________________, 2017

Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________, 2017

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Connor Fitzpatrick,        Brenna Love,
Relations and Affairs Chair  Chair of the Senate