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Fall 9-9-2020

### **SB22-20/21: Resolution Endorsing Ballot Initiative 190**

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Elizabeth Bowles

Cierra Anderson

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Endorsing Ballot Initiative 190**

3                                   **August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

4                                   **SB 22 – 20/21**

5                   **Authored by: Ethan Hanley, ASUM Business Manager; Kelly Armington, ASUM Senator;**  
6                   **Elizabeth Bowles, ASUM Senator; Cierra Anderson, Student-at-Large; Emma McMullen,**  
7                   **Student-At-Large;**

8                   **Sponsored by: Clara Bentler, ASUM Senator; Thor Skjelver, Student-at-Large;**  
9

10           Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests  
11           of roughly 10,000 students at the University of Montana (UM);  
12

13           Whereas, ASUM's primary responsibilities include defending and protecting the rights and  
14           privileges of the students of UM<sup>1</sup>;  
15

16           Whereas, In the run up to the 2019 legislative session, some UM students asked ASUM to lobby  
17           on bills which would legalize and decriminalize the possession and use of marijuana;  
18

19           Whereas, Ballot Initiative 190 (I-190) seeks to legalize the use of limited amounts of and  
20           possession of marijuana for those that are 21 years of age or older;  
21

22           Whereas, In addition to legalizing marijuana, I-190 generates additional tax revenue along with  
23           allowing individuals previously convicted of possession of marijuana to apply to have it  
24           expunged from their record;  
25

26           Whereas, Legalizing and taxing marijuana would generate around \$48 million of revenue and  
27           would go towards initiatives including but not limited to: wildlife and conservation, healthcare,  
28           the general fund (which will net \$4 million), substance abuse treatment, and supporting local  
29           marijuana regulation efforts<sup>2</sup>;  
30

31           Whereas, Decriminalizing marijuana and allowing people previously convicted of marijuana  
32           possession to apply for expungement would afford individuals opportunities they may otherwise  
33           not even be able to apply for, due to potential value-judgements associated with committing a  
34           legalized crime;  
35

36           Whereas, Legalizing marijuana is in the best interest of UM students because it allows for  
37           individual choice and ensures that students are not permanently harmed for these individual  
38           choices;  
39

40           Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM formally endorse Ballot Initiative 190;  
41

42           Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Seth Bodnar, President of  
43           the University of Montana; Kelly Webster, Chief of Staff; Sandy Curtis, Director of  
44           UM Housing; Jordan Lyons, Director of the Off Campus Renter Center; James Flanagan,  
45           President of the Montana Associated Students; Marty Ludemann, Chief of University Police.  
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47 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

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49 Passed by ASUM Senate: September 9, 2020

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53 \_\_\_\_\_  
54 Noah Durnell, Patrick James Flanagan,  
55 Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee Chair of the Senate

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58

59 \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Armington,  
Chair of the Student Political Action Committee