**The Associated Students of the University of Montana  
Resolution Opposing HB 302  
February 8, 2019  
SB 27-18/19  
Authored by: Abbigail Belcher, ASUM Senator; Brenna Mae Davis, ASUM Senator;  
Sponsored by: Melissa Glueckert, ASUM Senator;**

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represent the interests of over 11,000 students, all of whom are at risk to be impacted by an unplanned pregnancy;

Whereas, An unplanned pregnancy can derail both parents’ life, hinder their ability to complete their education, increase the risk of poverty, and have lasting effects on a person’s health;

Whereas, Access to contraceptive and access to abortion are equally important aspects of reproductive healthcare;

Whereas, According to the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) of 2018, 46.7% of females use birth control pills, 25.8% use an intrauterine device (IUD), and 11% of students reported that they or their partner used emergency contraception in the last 12 months;

Whereas, According to the 2018 NCHA the use of birth control pills has been steadily decreasing while the use of IUDs has been significantly increasing;

Whereas, According to the 2018 NCHA the use of IUDs has increased by 442% since 2012 on the University of Montana (UM) campus;

Whereas, HB 302 aims to amend the Montana Constitution to read:

*“...the word "person" applies to all members of mankind at any stage of development,*

*beginning at the stage of fertilization or conception, regardless of age, health, level of*

*functioning, or condition of dependency*.”;

Whereas, Merriam Webster defines “fertilization” as:

*“The action or process of fertilizing an egg or a female animal or plant, involving the fusion of male and female gametes to form a zygote.”*;

Whereas, Merriam Webster defines “conception” as:

*“The action of conceiving a child or of one being conceived.”*;

Whereas, As a result of the conflicting definitions of “fertilization” and “conception”, the vague language presented in HB 302 does not indicate a clear time frame in which the prevention or ending of a pregnancy would be illegal;

Whereas, If adopted in the Montana Constitution, HB 302 could have disastrous results for college students, including but not limited to a lack of access to abortion services, birth control pills, IUDs, and Plan B pills;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That in the interest of protecting access to reproductive healthcare and the economic security of its constituents, ASUM strongly opposes the passage of HB 302;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM urges the members of the Montana State Senate Judiciary Committee and the Montana State Senate to vote against HB 302;

Therefore, Let it be Further Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the members of the Montana State Senate.

Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2019

Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2019

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Betsy Story, Mariah Welch,

SPA Director & Committee Chair Chair of the Senate