**The Associated Students of the University of Montana  
Resolution Regarding Protections of Gender Expression and Sexual Orientation  
February 8, 2019  
SB28-18/19  
Authored by: Alexandra Akmal, ASUM Senator; Abbigail Belcher, ASUM Senator  
Sponsored by:**

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represent all students at the University of Montana (UM);

Whereas, Many UM students are members of the LGBTQ+ community;

Whereas, The fourth ASUM legislative priority reads:

“*Equal Protection under the laws of Montana for all students regardless of race, sex, gender expression, sexual orientation, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious idea”;*

Whereas, Section 49-1-102 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) reads:

*“The right to be free from discrimination because of race, creed, religion, color, sex, physical or mental disability, age, or national origin is recognized as and declared to be a civil right.”;*

Whereas, There are currently no statutory protections from discrimination based on gender expression or sexual orientation;

Whereas, HB 465 would add these protections to the MCA;

Whereas HB 465 is a bill for an act entitled:

“*AN ACT PROTECTING GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION UNDER THE LAWS PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION; DEFINING "GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION" AND "SEXUAL ORIENTATION"; AMENDING SECTIONS 49-1-102, 49-2-303, 49-2-304, 49-2-305, 49-2-306, 49-2-307, 49-2-308, 49-2-403, 49-2-404, 49-2-602, 49-3-201, 49-3-202, 49-3-203, 49-3-204, 49-3-205, 49-3-206, AND 49-3-207, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.”;*

Whereas, UM Students that are members of the LGBTQ+ community are less likely to live in Montana, work in Montana, and contribute to economic growth in Montana after graduation knowing that Montana does not offer them full protection from discrimination;

Whereas, Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have passed full LGBTQ+ discrimination protections;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM officially supports the passage of HB 465;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that in the interest of protecting and respecting their LGBTQ+ constituents, ASUM urges all Montana State Legislators to vote in favor of HB 465;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the members of the Montana House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, the members of the Montana House of Representatives, the members of the Montana State Senate Judiciary Committee, the members of the Montana State Senate, and Steve Bullock, Governor of the state of Montana.

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