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SB26-08/09: Opportunity Maine Program

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution regarding the Opportunity Maine Program
October 29th, 2008
Senate Bill Number 26
Authored by: Siri Smillie, ASUM Vice President
Sponsored by: Trevor Hunter, ASUM President

Whereas, tuition at Montana colleges and universities, fees, housing, and other costs associated with attending college has increased much faster than the rate of inflation;

Whereas, most students must take out loans, both public and private, to afford a college degree;

Whereas, students are prohibited from attending college or finishing their degree because of the high cost and fear of lifelong debt;

Whereas, students are often discouraged from staying in Montana to enter fields such as teaching because the salaries offered are not sufficient to repay student loans;

Whereas, the value of a college education, both to the graduate and the community, should be fully recognized and rewarded;

Whereas, a better-trained, well educated workforce is good for our state and our economy;

Whereas, Opportunity Maine, a program enacted in 2008 in Maine, increases the number of students who can attend and complete college by giving tax credits to students with debt who stay in Maine after graduation and to businesses which pay off the student debt of their employees;

Whereas, Opportunity Maine was founded by student and community leaders committed to advancing sustainable economic prosperity;

Therefore Let It Be Resolved that The Associated Students of The University of Montana support the adaptation and adoption of the Opportunity Maine program in Montana.

Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM will provide copies of this resolution to the local legislative delegation and continue to lead and support these efforts.

Passed by Committee: __________________________, 2008
Passed by Senate: _____________________________, 2008

_____________________________ __________________________
Committee Chair Chair of the Senate
Andrew Dusek Siri Smillie