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SB72-14/15: Resolution Regarding the Affordable Care Act and Student Employment

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana

Resolution Regarding the Affordable Care Act and Student Employment

March 11, 2015

SB72-14/15

Authored by: Mike Hopkins, MAS Lobbyist and Ryan Hazen, ASUM Business Manager

Sponsored by:

Whereas, the University of Montana (UM) currently employs thousands of students and will employ thousands more in the future;

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) employs a large number of students;

Whereas, students may have multiple jobs on campus or within the Montana University System;

Whereas, under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), students become eligible for healthcare once they have worked an average of 30 hours per week during a six-month-stability period;

Whereas, UM must pay employer contributions for these students, through ACA, that can exceed hundreds of dollars per month, until the student is deemed to no longer meet the 30 hours per week average;

Whereas, students will be limited to 29.75 hours of work per week combined across all UM departments in which they are employed, so that they will not cross the 30 hours per week threshold, at which time UM will have to pay the employer contribution for the students’ healthcare;

Whereas, UM department budgets will be unable to support additional healthcare payments for student employees who exceed the 30 hours of work per week average and will, in many cases, be forced to terminate the students’ employment if student employees exceed the 29.75 hours per week allowance;

Whereas, many students employed on campus already exceed the 30 hours of work per week average by working in multiple departments within the UM system;

Whereas, students who exceed the 30 hours of work per week average plan and manage their finances based on that level of income;

Whereas, students will be forced in many cases to reduce working hours within the UM system by having to choose between jobs in order to bring themselves under the 30 hours of work per week average;
Whereas, students who are forced to reduce their working hours will be likely to scale back their monthly expenditures or seek additional employment outside of the UM system;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM strongly opposes the undue burden being placed on student employment by provisions within the Affordable Care Act;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges Montana’s Congressman Ryan Zinke, and Montana’s United States Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines to work together to formulate and pass into law an exemption for students from these specific provisions within the Affordable Care Act;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges Governor Steve Bullock and the Montana Legislature to work together to address this issue in the upcoming legislative session;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the following: Senator Jon Tester, Senator Steve Daines, Congressman Ryan Zinke, Governor Steve Bullock, Montana House Majority Leader Keith Regier, Montana House Minority Leader Chuck Hunter, Montana Senate Majority Leader Matthew Rosendale, Montana Senate Minority Leader Jon Susso, and President of the University of Montana Royce Engstrom.

Passed by Committee: ____________________________, 2015
Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2015

Sean McQuillan, Brandon Bart,  
ASUM Chair Student Political Action Committee Chair