

EXHIBIT 5  
DATE 1-31-05  
HB 435

Madame Chairwoman, members of the committee. Thank you for your time today, for the record my name is Jessica Grennan and I represent the Associated Students of the University of Montana.

Today is an exciting day for current and future Montana students, ASUM whole heartily supports house bill 435. I would like to take a second to introduce some individuals who attend my former high school Helena Capital and who will be testifying later today. These bright intelligent students are involved in Speech and debate, student government, champion soccer teams, new papers and community service the reason for the best and brightest scholarship program.

ASUM supports Governor Schweitzer and Representative Branae bill for the following reasons.

ASUM places affordability and access to higher education as the number one issue during this legislative session and House Bill 435 will ensure more Montana students receive the skills necessary for a fulfilling life.

HB 435 acknowledges the benefit of both four year colleges and college of technology. In my family I choose to attend UM and major in history, my younger brother opted to attend culinary school. HB 435 ensures that both my brother and I can apply for higher education scholarships.

The benefits to higher education outweigh any costs associated with obtaining post graduate degree or training. Students that receive post secondary training or degrees make more then their peers.

The value of post secondary training goes far beyond the economic benefits. College graduates are more likely to volunteer in civic organizations, less likely to commit crime and can expect a longer life span. Graduates of Montana's two- and four-year schools will also be the backbone of Montana's economy for years to come. I urge you to keep Montana's Best and Brightest in Montana by voting for a do pass recommendation.