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DATE 1-31-05
HB H35

Testimony

Good afternoon.

My name is Jesse Piedfort, and I'm a fourth-year student at The University of Montana – Missoula. Although I came to UM from high school in the Seattle area and would not be eligible to receive an award from Governor Schweitzer's proposed "Best and Brightest" Scholarship Program, I strongly urge you to support this measure.

I have been fortunate enough to discover Montana's beauty and my university's academic quality, but many of Montana's best students feel compelled to leave the state to stay ahead in today's increasingly competitive academic and economic environments. This scholarship program will help ensure that academic quality in our University System remains first rate by ensuring that intellectual dialogue and discovery is conducted at a high level. This will not only increase the appeal of our campuses to in-state academic talent, but also to first-rate professors and out-of-state students.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. I have no doubt that this will be a step in the right direction for Montana's future.