

EXHIBIT NO. _____

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SB273

What does establishing a medical school in Billings seek to accomplish?

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Would it...

...improve the quality of doctors coming to Montana?

Montana students already:

- Attend the TOP RANKED medical school for primary care
 - WWAMI emphasizes rural medicine training with multiple programs in Montana, such as RUOP, SPARX, WRITE and AHEC
 - 49.9% of WWAMI graduates practice in primary care
 - Pioneering telemedicine applications
- Train at 3 world class medical centers in Seattle: UWMC, Virginia Mason and Harborview AND rural Montana
 - Best of BOTH worlds!
 - Experience is brought back to Montana
- Benefit from physicians and professors from across the 5-state WWAMI region

...attract better students?

WWAMI already:

- Takes 20 of the most qualified applicants
 - WWAMI gets the "cream of the crop"
 - ♣ Most WWAMI students were accepted to multiple (many times reputable) schools!
- Why do students choose WWAMI? 3 reasons: Reputation, Location and Cost

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- **Reputation:** training in primary care, emphasizing rural medicine
 - **Location:** 1st year in Bozeman, 2nd-4th within the Northwest region
 - **Cost:** WWAMI is the most affordable medical education available to Montana residents

...improve return rates once students graduate?

WWAMI already:

- Beats the national return rate by 3% (Montana students) and 17.5% (all WWAMI students: WA, WY, AK, MT, and ID students combined)
 - Rates: Montana WWAMI=44.4%, all WWAMI=58.8%, National=41.3%
- Return rates: ND=33%, SD=38%
 - Beats comparable states: ND & SD by 11.4% & 6.4%, respectively
- Burdens students with less debt
 - 2004 in-state tuition for 1st year: ND=\$18,300, SD=\$18,400, WWAMI=\$15,000
 - Debt load influences where graduates practice!

...better integrate within Montana?

WWAMI already:

- Has established involvement with 75 communities across Montana
 - Clerkships in: Missoula(2), Billings(2), Great Falls, Havre and Whitefish
 - WRITE sites in: Libby and Lewistown
 - ~50 3rd & 4th year students do clerkships in Montana each year
- Established relationships with approx. 125 physicians across rural Montana

- Volunteer to be preceptors for the RUOP program
- Encourages volunteerism throughout students' education
 - CHAP: student-initiated & student-run community service projects
 - ♣ Eagle Mount, Soup Kitchen, Outreach to Montana reservations

The Bottom Line...

- WWAMI attracts the best candidates
- WWAMI produces highly-trained graduates who are likely to practice in Montana
- WWAMI services many communities, large and small, throughout the state
- **Why try to “re-invent the WWAMI wheel” with an under-funded, lower-tier school which would primarily benefit one Montana community?**
- **WWAMI works!**

