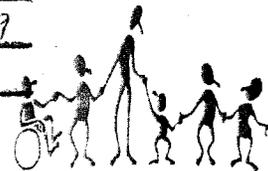




EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1/22/69
HB 2



Faith Dawson
Alliance for Disability and Students at the U of M
Club President

About 1,000 students at UM disclose a disability. Most of these --- over 900 of them --- use some form of disability service. This means that 7.2 percent of the student body at the University of Montana is comprised of students with disabilities.

- *The enrollment of students with disabilities steadily increases each year. There is no sign that this trend will change.*

The reasons for this are better identification of disabilities in K-12 and the reputation of UM for disability access. Also, social norms are changing so that it is becoming respectable to have a disability. There is not as much stigma about disability as there used to be.

- *The student to coordinator ratio is about 250 students for each coordinator. National benchmarks say a 150-1 ratio should be the maximum. The workload creates barriers for students seeking reasonable program modifications.*

Disability Services administers about 3,000 exams each semester, and the demand far outpaces their supply of rooms, technology, and human resources. This particular barrier is probably the longest standing problem in their office. They really need a test modification coordinator given the numbers of accommodated exams.

- *History: The 1991 Montana Legislature adopted a program modification that funded disability services office in Missoula and Billings. Enrollment of students with disabilities was about 200 at the time. Since then, UM has steadily increased funding for disability services without special action by the Legislature, although the last permanent increase occurred about 7 years ago when UM created its assistive technology coordinator position.*

DSS definitely requires more funding to keep up, so please fund the University of MT.

