



THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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Chairman Himmelberger, members of the committee, my name is Ashleen Williams, and I am currently a junior at the University of Montana studying Political Science and American Politics. I have been in Missoula since July 2007 when I moved from Snohomish, Washington. I will be graduating with an undergraduate degree in May 2010, after which I plan on staying in Montana to pursue a graduate degree and a career in civil service.

I chose to move to Montana for several reasons, a principle one being the political process. Montana voters have access to their elected representatives that, from my perspective, is unlike other states. Because I believe in the democratic process and I think it is important that we take advantage of the opportunity we have in this country not only to exercise our right to vote. Not only do I think it's important that we participate by voting, but I also believe in electing officials who will work cooperatively towards a better state and a better nation. So this year I was able to be actively involved as a volunteer in several campaigns during the 2008 election season, and I look forward to a similar experience in 2010.

Because I do not drive, I do not have a driver's license and as a frequent traveler my primary identification is my passport which does not list my residence. I understand this bill provides some other opportunities to prove residency, however, like many students in the University system I live in campus housing and therefore do not pay my utilities directly. If this measure passes I would be ineligible to vote in the state of Montana. It is important for me to be able to vote in the community I live in because of its direct impact on my life. I live, study and work and pay taxes in Montana and am impacted by the decisions of all our elected officials. Please help protect my right to have a voice in the community in which I live by voting against this bill.