

2011-R-05
Support of SB280 in the Montana Legislature

Sponsors: Matt Smith
Joe Thiel
Derek Kreuger

Yes: 18 No 0 Abs 1
Date: 02/10/2011

Vote Necessary: Majority

1 **Intent:** To express support for SB280, which authorizes the Commissioner of Higher Education
2 to develop a self-insured student health plan for enrolled students of the Montana University
3 System and their dependents.

4
5 **Whereas,** Students on all MUS campuses are required to have some form of health coverage if
6 they are taking four or more credits; and,

7
8 **Whereas,** since 1995, the Montana University System (MUS) has sponsored an insurance plan
9 for students known as the Montana University System Student Insurance Program (MUSSIP);
10 and,

11
12 **Whereas,** This health coverage is vital in order to provide financial protection to students who
13 may otherwise be uninsured and to assure that students have access to needed health care
14 services; and,

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16 **Whereas,** increased affordability of such health coverage would lower costs for many current
17 and prospective students seeking higher education, thus removing barriers for many students
18 wishing to attend or continue college; and,

19
20 **Whereas,** while the MUSSIP plan has been reasonably successful in controlling costs over the
21 past 15 years, there are opportunities to significantly reduce overhead by self-insuring; and,

22
23 **Whereas,** SB280, by allowing the Commissioner of Higher Education to develop a self-insured
24 student health plan for enrolled students of the Montana University System and their dependents,
25 promises to lower costs for students.

26
27 **Therefore, let it be resolved that:** The Associated Students of Montana State University
28 support SB280 and urge Montana legislators to enact this important legislation

29
30 **Let it be further resolved that:** this resolution be submitted as a letter to Eric Dietrich, the
31 Exponent Editor-in-Chief, and copies be sent to Eric Fisher, ASMSU President; Dr. Waded
32 Cruzado, President of MSU; Michael Dills, ASMSU Lobbyist; Janelle Booth, MAS Lobbyist;
33 Doug Steele, VP for External Relations; and Gail Schontzler, Chronicle Staff Writer.

