



# AANIIH NAKODA COLLEGE

*Empowering Identity and Ways of Knowing*



February 13, 2012

Kris Hansen  
Chairwoman, House Education Committee  
and Committee Members  
Helena, Montana

Dear Chairwoman Hansen and Committee Members::

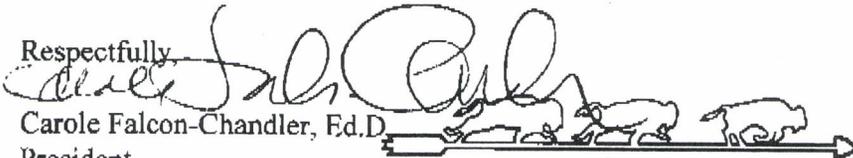
First, I apologize for not traveling to Helena to provide testimony for an important bill. Today, our Fort Belknap Community is holding a funeral for an 18 year old young man who died of a gunshot wound and most of our local college students are attending the services.

It is of the utmost importance to the Fort Belknap Indian Community and all Tribes in Montana that the current Montana University System Indian Fee Waiver be changed to include *students who are tribally enrolled but do not meet the 1/4 from a federally recognized Montana Tribe.*

Our students transfer from our tribal colleges to the four year Montana institutions. Those students who are tribally enrolled and do not meet the 1/4 requirement possess limited financial aide and because of this limitation many have to leave college and return home. An personal example is a grandson attends MSU-Northern. He receives a partial athletic scholarship for tuition and fees only. He is enrolled as less than 1/4 Gros Ventre. If he is enrolled as a tribal member, how could he be ineligible for the Indian Fee Waiver? He wanted to be here today; however; he is a good student and did not want to miss his classes. I worry that he may not complete his education at this time due to financial worries. His parents are not in a good financial situation to help him with all his expenses, i.e. board and room. *The Montana University System Indian Fee Waiver would certainly help him complete his degree.* He received numerous high school scholarships last year while he was a freshman.

As I previously stated, our tribal college students transfer to MSU-Northern, MSU-Billings, University of Montana, MSU-Bozeman and other Montana Colleges. Those students who do not meet the eligibility requirements for the Waiver could have just a little bit more in their pockets and not have to worry if your Committee would include the tribally enrolled students who are less than 1/4.

Respectfully,

  
Carole Falcon-Chandler, Ed.D.  
President

P.O. Box 159 • Harlem, Montana 59526  
406.353.2607 • fax 406.353.2898 • www.fbcc.edu

*Accredited through Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities*