

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-29 08:00 AM - (H) JAS on Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Laurie Little Dog

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City, State: Bozeman, MT

Written Statement: Dear Chair Mercer and Committee, Montana Citizens very much appreciate the Montana Law Library and hold access to the library and services in the highest regard! If it were surveyed, I am confident that we would find that "we the people" do not want a fee-for-service program implemented at the Montana Law Library. The services and access to the Montana Law library is incredibly empowering to Montanans at large. We want our citizens to engage with the legislative process to the best of their intellect level, regardless of income and ability to pay. An educated society is typically a responsible society. Please do not try and place a dollar amount on this resource or access to information obtained from the Montana Law Library.

As the presenter shared, most patrons who utilize the Montana Law Library are helped in a way that benefits the courts. Not charging individual patrons is already a return on the investment of keeping it "free".

Montana is rare jewel in many aspects. We are the "Crown of the Continent"... the "the Last Best Place". We are unique to have a "Citizen's legislature" in place. Let's not desecrate that by placing unwanted barriers to Montanan's access knowledge. If someone is curious to walk through those doors or call the a Law librarian, by all means... lets empower them to seek knowledge not remain in ignorance!

I do not see any good or sustainable outcome that could come from imposing this upon it's citizens and I oppose the fee-for-service model to be implemented here.

In fact, I strongly hold that the Montana Law Library should be held as a sacred space. "Let only the eager, thoughtful and reverent, enter here". -James Arnold Blaisdell

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-02-01 09:00 AM - (H) JAS on Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Clemente Arciga

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City, State: Missoula

Written Statement: How much of this budget is allocated to help those under the care of P&P to help them pay for housing or applications fees? How about for treatment? There are many felons struggling nowadays, especially because of Covid. When this people talk to their P.Os, does the P.O have knowledge of funds to help them get the help that they need? What kinds of assistance is being set within P&P to assist those needing help?