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### SB53-16/17: Resolution Regarding Renter-Averse Legislation in the 2017 Montana Legislative Session

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Mary O'Malley

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2       **Resolution Regarding Renter-Averse Legislation in the 2017 Montana Legislative Session**  
3                                   **February 8, 2017**  
4                                   **SB53-16/17**

5       **Authored by: Bailey Durnell, ASUM Senator; Mary O’Malley, ASUM Off-Campus Renter**  
6                                   **Center Director;**

7                                   **Sponsored by: Sam Forstag, ASUM President**  
8

9       Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests  
10       of over 12,000 students at the University of Montana;

11  
12       Whereas, the Montana Residential Landlord Tenant Act (MRLTA) was designed to fairly protect  
13       and represent both landlords and tenants;

14  
15       Whereas, UM students are both landlords and tenants;

16  
17       Whereas, Current Legislative proposals such as Senate Bills 174, 175, and 176 and House Bill  
18       348 would significantly curtail tenants’ rights to privacy, safety, and equal treatment under the  
19       law;

20  
21       Whereas, Senate Bill 176 presents a gross overreach on the part of landlord advocates and a  
22       legislature in dictating rulings to the judicial branch;

23  
24       Whereas, the protections currently laid out in the MRLTA are particularly important to college  
25       students and other vulnerable tenant populations;

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27       Whereas, preserving the equity and fairness of the MRLTA is important to all students who live  
28       off-campus;

29  
30       Whereas, the ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center (OCRC) is an ASUM agency that works to  
31       advocate for the rights of student tenants who rent off-campus;

32  
33       Whereas, Mary O’Malley, Director of the OCRC, has identified current legislation that threatens  
34       the balanced relationship of landlords and tenants dictated by the MRLTA;

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36       Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana  
37       (ASUM) supports landlord-tenant laws that ensure equal protection for tenants;

38  
39       Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that ASUM condemns any legislative efforts to weaken  
40       legal protections and basic rights for vulnerable tenant populations in Montana;

41  
42       Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that the ASUM lobbyist is authorized to advocate for the  
43       preservation of legal protections of student tenants;

44

45 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that ASUM encourages student organizations across the  
46 state, such as ASMSU and MAS, to take a formal stance against any legislative efforts to  
47 undermine the rights of student renters and otherwise vulnerable tenant populations;  
48

49 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Senator Keith  
50 Regier, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee; Senator Diane Sands, Vice Chair of the Senate  
51 Judiciary Committee; Senator Jennifer Fielder, Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee;  
52 Representative Alan Doane, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee; Representative Virginia  
53 Court, Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Representative Seth Berglee, Vice Chair of  
54 the Senate Judiciary Committee;  
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60 Elizabeth Engebretson  
61 Chair of the Senate