

1 **Montana Associated Students**
2 **Resolution Regarding Renter-Averse Legislation in the 2017 Montana Legislative Session**
3 **February 9, 2017**

4 **SB08-16/17**

5 **Authored by: Mary O'Malley, ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center Director; Sam Forstag,**
6 **MAS President**

7 **Sponsored by: Andy Bixler, MAS Lobbyist and Kennedee Burk ASMSUB VP & MAS**
8 **Internal VP**

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10 Whereas, the Montana Associated Students (MAS) represents over 40,000 students across the
11 Montana University System;

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

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16 Whereas, Montana students are both landlords and tenants;

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

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

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

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

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31 Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, that the Montana Associated Students (MAS) supports landlord-
32 tenant laws that ensure equal protection for tenants;

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34 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that MAS condemns any legislative efforts to weaken
35 legal protections and basic rights for vulnerable tenant populations in Montana;

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37 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that the MAS lobbyist is authorized to advocate for the
38 preservation of legal protections for of student tenants;

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40 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Senator Keith
41 Regier, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee; Senator Diane Sands, Vice Chair of the Senate
42 Judiciary Committee; Senator Jennifer Fielder, Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee;
43 Representative Alan Doane, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee; Representative Virginia
44 Court, Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Representative Seth Berglee, Vice Chair of
45 the Senate Judiciary Committee;

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51 Sam Forstag

52 MAS President, ASUM President

Kennedee Burk

MAS Internal VP, MSUB VP