

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-02-09 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Education

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: MFPE - Montana Federation of Public Employees

Name: Diane Fladmo

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City, State: Helena, MT

Written Statement: To: Chair Bedey and Education Joint Appropriations Subcommittee Members

Re: HB 2, Support for Montana Historical Society Budget

On behalf of the Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE) I am pleased to offer support for the Montana Historical Society. Since 1865 the Historical Society has been working to preserve Montana's history. We value the shared and successful efforts of our members, the administration, and the Board of the Historical Society toward this important work. It is critical that the present law adjustments are approved.

We respectfully urge your support for the budget of the Montana Historical Society and appreciate your service and consideration.

Diane Fladmo, Director of Public Policy MFPE

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-02-11 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Education

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: Re: Montana Law Library Budget

Dear Chair Bedey 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