



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY FOR PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO STATE LEGISLATORS, LEGISLATIVE STAFF, AND LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONS.

WHEREAS, our nation's state legislatures are America's laboratories of democracy that have continually demonstrated that they are ideal organizations to resolve difficult policy choices and tackle emerging challenges; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) was created in 1975 from the merger of three organizations that served or represented state legislatures and shared the belief that legislative service is one of democracy's worthiest pursuits; and

WHEREAS, NCSL has evolved during the past half-century to become the premier organization solely dedicated to serving state and territorial legislatures and legislative staff; and

WHEREAS, NCSL is a bipartisan organization with three objectives: to advance the effectiveness, independence, and integrity of state legislatures, to foster interstate communication and cooperation, and to ensure states have a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system; and

WHEREAS, state legislatures are comprised of diverse legislators who find common ground and resolve complex issues even though they represent constituents from different communities and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, NCSL helps facilitate an exchange of ideas, provides critical research and information, and encourages a rigorous review of complex problems confronting our communities, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, NCSL creates opportunities for state legislatures to have a cohesive voice in the federal system; and

WHEREAS, Montana Sen. Antoinette Rosell served as a founding member of the NCSL Executive Committee, 1974-1975; and

WHEREAS, other Montana state legislators have enjoyed a mutually beneficial, professional association with NCSL while serving as members of the NCSL Executive Committee:

Rep. Robert Marks, 1978-1979

Sen. Bea McCarthy, 2002-2004

Sen. Elsie Arntzen, 2010-2013

Rep. Art Wittich, 2014-2016

Rep. Ellie Hill Smith, 2016-2018

Rep. Marilyn Ryan, 2018-2021

Sen. Barry Usher, 2021-present, currently serving as Vice Chair; and

WHEREAS, various Montana legislative staff members have each made important contributions to NCSL through their service as members of the NCSL Executive Committee:

Susan Byorth Fox, Executive Director, Legislative Services

Sonia Gavin, Legislative Librarian, Legislative Services

Rachel Weiss, Research Director, Legislative Services; and

WHEREAS, Susan Byorth Fox, Executive Director, Legislative Services, was a founding member of the NCSL Research, Editorial, Legal and Committee Staff section in 2016; and

WHEREAS, recent Montana legislative staff and lawmakers have served in leadership roles within NCSL, contributing to NCSL's voice in the federal system and the professional development of their colleagues across the country:

Sen. Elsie Arntzen, Co-Vice Chair, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee

Amy Carlson, President, National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices

Marilyn Daumiller, Staff Co-Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Rep. Llew Jones, Co-Chair, NCSL Education Committee; Chair NCSL Budget Working Group

Pad McCracken, Staff Co-Chair, Education Committee

Marilyn Daumiller, Staff Co-Chair, Human Services and Welfare Committee

Susan Byorth Fox, Staff Co-Chair, Legislative Effectiveness Committee, Staff Co-Chair, NCSL

Standing Committees

Senator Kristin Hansen, Co-Vice Chair, Education Committee

Rep. Frederick Moore, Co-Vice Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Megan Moore, Staff Vice Co-Chair, NCSL Budgets and Revenue Committee

Patricia Murdo, Staff Co-Chair, Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce

Committee

Bradley Murfitt, Executive Board, National Legislative Services and Security Association

Hope Stockwell, Staff Co-Chair, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee

Joe Triem, President-Elect, National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices

Sen. Barry Usher, Co-Chair, NCSL Law and Public Safety Committee

Rachel Weiss, Staff Co-Chair, NCSL Elections and Redistricting Committee; Immediate Past Chair, Research, Editorial, Legal and Committee Staff Association; Staff Co-Vice Chair, NCSL Overall Standing Committee; and

WHEREAS, at least 10 Montana legislative staff have completed NCSL's prestigious and competitive leadership development program for legislative staff, called the Legislative Staff Management Institute; and

WHEREAS, at least 12 Montana legislative staff and lawmakers have completed an NCSL Fellowship program:

Rep. Laurie Bishop, Maternal and Child Health Fellow

Rep. Mary Caferro, Maternal and Child Health Fellow

Rep. Jennifer Carlson, Child Welfare Fellow

Rep. Jane Gillette, Maternal and Child Health Fellow, Early Childhood Fellow

Sen. Carl Glimm, Opioid Policy Fellow

Sen. Ryan Lynch, Pretrial Policy Fellow

Sen. Edie McClafferty, Early Childhood Fellow

Pad McCracken, Early Childhood Fellow

Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy, Early Childhood Fellow

Rep. Amy Regier, Opioid Policy Fellow

Sen. Laura Smith, Opioid Policy Fellow, Early Childhood Fellow

Sen. Barry Usher, Pretrial Policy Fellow; and

WHEREAS, NCSL provides opportunities for state legislators and staff to better understand and appreciate the important role they play in preserving and protecting legislative institutions as effective, independent, and ethical organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the State of Montana does hereby recognize and commend the National Conference of State Legislatures for its exceptional leadership and commitment to state legislators, legislative staff, and legislative institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Services Division send a copy of this resolution to NCSL.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
SJ 10, originated in the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

INTRODUCED BY B. USHER

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY FOR PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO STATE LEGISLATORS, LEGISLATIVE STAFF, AND LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONS.