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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

INTRODUCED BY D. JOY, D. BAUM, M. MARLER, E. MATTHEWS, J. REAVIS, L. REKSTEN, E. STAFMAN,
M. THANE, J. WEBER

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RECOGNIZING THE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS MADE EVERY DAY BY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS IN MONTANA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CELEBRATING EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS DAY ON APRIL 3, 2025.

WHEREAS, Montana's future economic stability, safety, and creative opportunities are dependent on a well-educated populace; and

WHEREAS, the 9,106 educational support professionals employed in Montana's public schools include instructional paraprofessionals, secretaries, clerks, special-needs assistants, information technology services professionals, instructional paraprofessionals for students with deafness or hearing loss, sign-language interpreters, visual disability educators, and transportation and custodial employees; and

WHEREAS, educational support professionals contribute to the safety and success of Montana's public school students and of school activities they participate in; and

WHEREAS, educational support professionals participate in a wide variety of roles in schools, including as members of district committees that develop policies and school calendars and make determinations about district insurance policies; and

WHEREAS, educational support professionals play a vital role in helping all students, including students with significant physical, social-emotional, and mental needs, reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, retention of educational support professionals is in the best interest of Montana; and

WHEREAS, one full-time job should be enough to thrive economically in Montana; and

WHEREAS, Montana's educational support professionals deserve the respect and praise of the Montana Legislature and the gratitude of Montana's citizens for their professionalism and deep commitment to the education, health, and safety of all Montana's public school students.

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

3 That educational support professionals throughout Montana be recognized for their significant impact
4 on the educational outcomes and positive learning environments for Montana's students.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 69th Legislature recognizes and celebrates Educational
6 Support Professionals Day in conjunction with the national Paraprofessional Appreciation Day on April 3, 2025.

7 - END -