HB 588: AN EPIC POWER GRAB

HB 588 gives the Governor power to APPOINT hundreds of political friends to important state jobs instead of hiring qualified and dedicated staff. That's right: HB 588 would allow the Governor to APPOINT rather than hire up to 10% of positions in ANY state agency.

This epic power grab circumvents the hiring process to appoint people based on their relationships with the Governor,

rather than their skill set or expertise, and it leaves appointees with no grievance process, no workplace rights, and no pay schedule.

Political appointees don't don't need any qualifications, don't have to sit for an interview, and could simply be a friend or a campaign donor.

During HB 588's hearing, the bill sponsor said, "as jobs come open, we will just reclassify them to make them appointed positions." Hundreds of them!

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HB 588, combined with the myriad bills to restructure our judicial system, put Montana on a path to autocracy. There is no fixing this bad bill.