

Jonah Martinez
1016 Washington Ave SE
3/22/2022

Mr. Chair and members of this committee,

As President of People for PSEO, I have dedicated the last couple of years of my life to improving the PSEO Program for the betterment of high school students across the state of Minnesota. This has included efforts to keep students informed about all educational opportunities which are available for their benefit. I've also sought to make improvements to existing state statute with the help of all People for PSEO board members.

Based on my experience studying and advocating for the PSEO program, I can confidently say that SF 4087 will substantially improve educational opportunities and attainment for students across the state of Minnesota. Each part of our bill improves the program in a separate way. Removal of the existing Gag Rule will result in students having better access to information about opportunities provided by the PSEO program. Requiring equal grade weighting between CIS and PSEO credits will drastically improve equity between PSEO and non-PSEO students in each high school as they apply for scholarships and college. Lastly, requiring MDE to improve its data reporting system for students who opt to do PSEO by contract will allow lawmakers and public interest groups to more accurately assess demographic trends within the PSEO program as a whole.

In short - I firmly believe that our bill provides the state of Minnesota with bipartisan and substantial improvements to our PSEO program. I can confidently say this as a former PSEO student, and as President and former Policy Chair of People for PSEO.

Sincerely,
Jonah Martinez

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonah Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jonah" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Martinez".

President of People for PSEO