

Monday, March 6, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in concern for the amendment to SF 1311 and am requesting this to be part of the written testimonies at the Wednesday, March 8 hearing. I am requesting to strike the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of SF-1311, which states: *"An eligible institution must not require a faith statement during the application process or base any part of the admission decision on a student's gender or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations"*.

As a school counselor it is extremely concerning that this could affect over 25% of students in Minnesota who participate in PSEO courses for further their education, many of whom I have seen thrive from the benefits of PSEO. Not only financially but academically as well. Along with the experience of time-management for heavier workloads that they are learning much earlier. These students will be entering adulthood with less college debt which only has positive effects on the individuals, families and communities. Students state-wide have many choices about what institutions from which to get their PSEO credits, so no one is obligated to attend a faith-based college for PSEO. This is only forcing more discrimination against those of faith by not allowing the same opportunities as the students and family see fit and desire. PSEO has proven over the years to not only be successful but also extremely valued and needed with the increased demands we are seeing statewide.

Again, I am strongly opposed to the SF-1311 amendment and the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of SF-1311, which states: *"An eligible institution must not require a faith statement during the application process or base any part of the admission decision on a student's gender or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations"*.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annalee Stier-Koonst Tupy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Annalee Stier-Koonst Tupy

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