

March 6, 2023

Dear MN State Senate Education Committee,

I would like this letter to become part of the written testimony for Wednesday 3/9/2023 hearing as I **strongly oppose** the amendment to SF 1311.

I ask that you strike the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original SF 1311 which states an eligible institution must not require a faith statement during the application process or base any part of an admission decision on a student's gender or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations.

Please allow the current choice to any college, state, private or christian college to continue to be the option. My children have been able to benefit from the faith-based PSEO options that our great state of Minnesota has offered. With the faith-based PSEO as a highschool option, my son was able to graduate from college two and a half years post highschool and is now in the workforce in Minnesota and contributing and giving back to Minnesota. My daughter is now in her first year at a faith-based college as a PSEO junior highschool student and has plans to continue next school year for her senior year.

Please keep the freedom to choose the post secondary institution that will best fit each student in our state. By limiting faith based college and universities in our state, it will put a strain and competition into the other college institutions thus making it more difficult for our students to qualify and gain a valuable education with smaller class sizes. Our state has a wide variety of college choices for all to make the best decision for each person and no one is obligated to choose a faith based college. Thus by eliminating the faith-based institutions, you will be displacing 25% of our students who participate in this option elsewhere and straining the whole PSEO system.

Again, I strongly oppose the language in this amendment and hope that you protect the freedom of choice to any college in our state of Minnesota.

I ask that you listen to the people of Minnesota.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Fletcher