

Dear Education Policy Committee Chair Cwodzinski,
Re: Bill HF-1269/SF-1311

This is my written testimony and I'm asking for you to add this to the written record. It has recently come to my attention that there is concerning language in the amendment to 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.* I am asking that you please **strike the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of SF-1311.**

I have a son who is currently in 8th grade and a daughter in 5th. Both, but especially my son, were really looking forward to the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school. I utilized PSEO options when I was a student and was able to shave a year of costs from my college education. My kids have been hoping to do the same. I am worried that this limits their ability to choose the post-secondary institution that best fits them.

Not only does this limit our kids' future options, but those of many other kids. Since 25% of PSEO students attend PSEO at faith based institutions, these programs are providing needed classes for the growing number of students accessing the PSEO option. Forcing students away from faith-based colleges will increase competition for PSEO spots at secular universities and will limit the choices available to ALL students.

I would hate to see this PSEO program minimized and negatively impacted by this bill, because it is helping so many students enter adulthood with significantly less college debt.

This limitation is not only harmful to our children's financial futures, but it is also unnecessary, as no one is required to attend a faith-based college for PSEO. Narrowing the pool of colleges offering PSEO by eliminating faith-based institutions is harmful to all MN students by limiting their choices and increasing competition for program openings.

I believe every MN student has unique needs, and since every college and university offers a different experience, flexibility and various options when choosing a PSEO program is essential. Our children deserve the freedom to decide which school best fits their PSEO needs.

Once again, I am asking that you please strike the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of SF-1311.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Kristen Luhring
424 143rd Ave NW
Andover, MN 55304