

March 4, 2023

Senator Coleman –

I **OPPOSE** lines **19.8-19.11** in **SF 1311**. Please attach this letter to the bill as **PUBLIC OPPOSITION**.

I am writing to you as a homeschool mom of 3 – one of whom has applied for PSEO. I was at the House mtg (HF 1269) on February 6, the Senate mtg (SF 1311) on February 15, and will be at the Senate mtg on March 8.

We have been homeschooling for 9+ years. For 7 years prior to that, my children were in a parochial school. We have been paying taxes into the public school system without using those dollars; that is a sacrifice we knew about going in. However, I don't think we should also have to pay for PSEO if we choose to take classes at a college with a faith statement. PSEO has been huge benefit to all MN high schoolers to get a jump start on their higher education. PSEO classes have been in our family's education plan and transcripts for quite some time and would start in Fall 2023.

Crown College is my son's top choice. He likes the community, atmosphere, and competitive classes, but another reason is a transportation issue: Crown is 10 minutes from our house. Our next choice is Ridgewater (community college) in Hutchinson, which is 40 minutes from our house. As I'm sure you know, public transportation does not go out into the country where we live. We have a limited number of vehicles in our household, and the price of gas will make the commute extremely difficult.

The PSEO classes my son is interested in include American Government, Topics in US History, College Writing and Research, Calculus, Introduction to Microeconomics, Career Exploration and Planning, etc. We understand that government funding does not cover religious classes.

Statistically, PSEO students in faith-based institutions make up over 25% of the total PSEO student population in MN. If the colleges with faith statements lose their funding and are no longer able to offer PSEO, where will the students go? It is my understanding that all colleges have a limited number of spots for their PSEO programs. That could mean that many high school students – public, private, and homeschool – will not be able to take on-campus PSEO classes, regardless of what type of college they choose.

I **oppose** this new PSEO language. **Please consider striking lines 19.8-19.11.**

Respectfully,

Sarah Bokenewicz

Mayer, MN