

March 6, 2023

Danna Elling & Reagan Greene
Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Danna Elling, Reagan Greene, and the Minnesota Senate;

Please include this letter in the written testimony for Wednesday's hearing regarding bill SF 1311 regarding potential changes to the PSEO program.

We are opposed to the amendment to SF 1311 and request 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.

We have observed our own children benefit from the PSEO program, as well as heard of many other families who have also benefitted. For our oldest son, PSEO at Bethel University helped prepare him for the transition to college, both academically and in terms of maturity and responsibility. He is now attending college and studying engineering. The college credits he earned in PSEO will reduce his overall cost of education. Our daughter is currently a senior and has earned PSEO credits through Northwestern. These classes have provided a wider variety of opportunities and challenges.

As taxpayers, the PSEO program is one that provides a return on investment and gives Minnesota an advantage over other states. By continuing to offer PSEO at private educational institutions, we will offer the next generation of citizens more choices, as different schools offer different cultures, geographic locations, courses, instructors, etc.

For these reason and much more, we are opposed to the amendment to SF 1311 and request 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.

Sincerely yours,

Tony Casassa