

14148 Opal Street NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304

March 6, 2023

Dear Senate Education Policy Committee,

I am writing in regards to the bill, HF1269/SF 1311, which includes language that may prevent many faith-based colleges and universities from offering PSEO and offering college level courses to high school students. If the language is adopted in the final bill, colleges and universities that require a faith statement or make admissions decisions described in the bill would not be able to offer PSEO for any modality that violates the statute. **This will have a dramatic impact on my children's school community as many of the students take PSEO classes through the University of Northwestern-St. Paul and Bethel University.**

I am requesting that my letter becomes part of the written testimony for Wednesday's hearing.

I am in strong opposition to the amendment to SF 1311 and ask that **you 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.*

I am opposed to this bill because my son, Drew, is utilizing PSEO for many reasons. The top ones are obviously the financial benefits it brings, but also because those classes provide higher standards and rigor that stretch him in a necessary way, preparing him for a bright future when he might normally not be as challenged in a regular high school classroom environment. I want students to have the freedom to choose the post-secondary institution that is the best fit for them, even if it is at a faith-based institute. 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.

High school students, including my son Drew, are entering adulthood with much less college debt because of this program. 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. Flexibility and educational options when evaluating PSEO programs are extremely important and valuable. Every college and university offers a different experience. The freedom to choose which institution is the best fit is essential.

Thank you for your time in reading this and I hope that students like Drew will continue to have options to this great benefit just as tens of thousands before him have had the freedom to choose which institute they utilize for their higher-educational growth.

Thank you,



Tiffany Simon
Legacy Christian Academy parent
Andover, MN