

Dear Senate Committee Admins,

I am opposed to the amendment to SF 1311.

I ask that the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 be striked 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 race, creed, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations.

I teach science, and in particular Honors Chemistry, to many students that currently utilize PSEO in Minnesota. I have written many recommendation letters for students applying for the PSEO program. Most of those students were applying for PSEO at faith based institutions. I encourage my students to choose a post secondary institution that is the best fit for them.

25% of PSEO students attend PSEO at faith based institutions.

The law already only lets these schools receive funding for "non-sectarian" courses.

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.

Students are entering adulthood with much less, if not no, 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.

For these reasons, and on the behalf of my beloved students, I ask that you oppose the amendment to SF 1311.

Thank you!

Laura Kirkwold  
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