

March 7, 2023

To our committee members,

I urge you 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.”*

Should this poor choice in language remain and if this bill were to pass, our school community and our state's future leaders would be dramatically affected.

It is vital to your understanding while you are creating and presenting legislation that you keep in mind what makes our country so great and desirable: The United States of America offers the ***blessing of liberty and prosperity***. I want to reiterate that attending these faith-based institutions for PSEO is a ***choice***. No person is obligated to attend a faith-based institution for PSEO and there are many state-wide options for those who do not want faith integrated into their education. If you force these students away from faith-based colleges, competition for spots will increase and choices will be limited for *all* students. I want to argue that this PSEO program should be offered to ***all*** students because it instills a growth mindset in our state and country's diverse group of future leaders.

We have 2 sons heading into a private high school in a few years. We choose this private college-prep high school so our children would be academically challenged and prepared for the real working world. We also desire that they are surrounded by faculty that share the same mindset for excellence, with a tighter student-to-teacher ratio than what we see at the near-by secular schools. This college-prep school offers challenging courses with ever-increasing opportunities to ***further their education while still in High School with the PSEO classes giving them the opportunity to further their education earlier and to enter their adulthood with less college debt***. Our family desires that our students should have the freedom to choose the post-secondary institution that is the best fit for them.

Passing this bill would do our future children/students a ***great disservice***. And ***passing this bill would throw out our freedom and liberty to pursue excellence in the institution of our choice in our state***.

Our family opposes this amendment.

With a Sincere Heart,

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