

Senators and House Representatives-

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the original versions of HF-1269 and SF-1311, and in particular am asking the committee to strike lines 19.8 through 19.1. This is in regard to eliminating postsecondary institutions that require a faith statement as mentioned in lines 19.8-19.11. The wording states "eligible institutions must not require a faith statement during the application process." I am asking this letter to be attached to the bill as public opposition.

I have several students who anticipate being able to attend PSEO online or in person at Northwestern, which is renowned for its successful PSEO program. By choosing to interfere with state dual enrollment programs that have run successfully for many years, and not allowing our students to choose a school based on their own preferences, the MN Dept of Education is taking a significant step backwards for our children.

There are likely over 2,000 students in our state enrolled in PSEO at faith based colleges. 1,400 at Northwestern alone thus offering more access to our high school students. There is a reason that Northwestern is the largest provider of PSEO in the state. They have a GREAT, long-standing program. In addition, 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. Students are entering adulthood with much less if not no college debt because of this program

It should also be noted that 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, nor should the state be interfering with a students choice of further education. That alone is a basis for discrimination based on religious belief.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Once again, I would like this letter to be attached to the bill as PUBLIC OPPOSITION.

Sincerely,

Sarah Moore