

Ms. Elling and Ms. Greene:

I am writing to you today to let you know that I am **strongly opposed** to the amendment to SF 1311 in the bill HF1269/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 have 3 children that attend a private, faith-based school all of which have taken or are taking PSEO classes and would be affected negatively by this bill. My freshman in college was able to knock off one year of college through his high school PSEO curriculum and was also able to grow as a student and future leader by taking these courses in high school. His brother and sister are a junior and sophomore and are now following in their brother's footsteps taking PSEO classes. But, if you add this bill, this tremendous opportunity could be taken away from them. I understand that adding this language may not change things immediately, however, this language opens the door to the possibility they (and other students who are younger than them) would lose this opportunity in the future and so I ask you to take this language out of the bill.

I feel very strongly that the opportunity to pursue PSEO classes in **ALL** high school educational institutions is vitally important because . . .

- Students should have the freedom to choose the post-secondary institution that is the best fit for them.
- 25% of PSEO students attend PSEO at faith-based institutions.
- 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 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.

Honestly, I am not sure why someone would be interested in taking away this opportunity for students or even creating a doorway to take away this opportunity and would ask you, and all who support this bill, to reconsider and change your course.

No matter what your political affiliation is (and I honestly have no idea), I still hold hope that those who have been entrusted to govern for all Minnesotans, will legislate for all Minnesotans, not just the ones we agree with or align with politically. And I am hoping this email lands in the laps of leaders of character who still hold true to that incredibly important fundamental value of democracy.

Thank you for listening, considering and thoughtfully weighing this email and its call to action.

Sincerely,

Brian T. Bovee

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