

Dear Senate Committee Admins,

Please let this letter become a part of the WRITTEN TESTIMONY opposing the amendment to SF131.

I 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 race, creed, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations.

Two of our kids had the opportunity to attend PSEO at Christian based universities and greatly benefited from it. It was such a blessing for them to be in an environment where they could learn and feel safe with likeminded individuals. Isn't that what we want all our children to feel? Why take that opportunity away?

*We want students to 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.

*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.

Thank you for reading this letter. I ask that you oppose the changes in the upcoming vote for SF131.

Wendy Sirovy

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