

Dear MN Senate Education Committee Admins,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the amendment to SF 1311 and ask that **they 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.*

Our family is very much looking forward to the opportunity to partake in the PSEO options available through our Spring Lake Park school district, starting as soon as the 2023-2024 school year. While this is clearly targeting faith-based universities and appears designed to prevent faith-based colleges and universities from participating in PSEO, **I am discouraging including verbiage about our personal faith in your letters as faith-specific language in your letters could adversely impact the initiatives as PSEO classes are non-sectarian.**

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.
- 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.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our position, and please **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.*

Respectfully ,



Nathan A. Quist