

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as written testimony as my opposition to the amendment to SF-1311. I am asking 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."

Our 14-year-old daughter is applying for 10th grade PSEO for the fall of 2023 in anticipation of enrolling in full-time PSEO in 11th and 12th grades. Her college of choice for those two years is Crown College. The language in the amendment could potentially remove Crown and other faith-based institutions from her choice if those colleges decide to no longer accept PSEO funding because they are not willing to compromise on adherence to their statement of faith.

Because 25% of PSEO students attend faith-based institutions, forcing those students away from those institutions would increase competition for PSEO spots at secular institutions and limit choices for all PSEO students. The number of high school students considering PSEO is growing, so having more college choices for them is essential in giving them the highest quality academics that Minnesota is known for with the least amount of debt.

I think everyone would agree that we want students to choose the post-secondary institution that is the best fit for them. The law already allows these schools to receive funding for "non-sectarian" courses. There are many college choices for students to get their PSEO credits and no one is obligated to attend a faith-based college. However, it should continue to be a choice for any student who is eligible based on the institution's standard.

We are asking that you strike the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of SF-1311.

Sincerely,

Linda LaDuke

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