

March 4, 2023

Dear Senate committee administrator,

I am writing to state my **opposition** to the amendment to SF-1311. I am asking for the striking of 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.

This amendment would prohibit funding to postsecondary institutions that require a faith statement, which appears to be a “double hit” as PSEO students already are not permitted to enroll in any faith based courses. I believe that students should be encouraged to choose post secondary education institutions that are the best fit for them.

Higher education is currently in financial hardships already. Academic programs are being cut due to institutional financial crisis leading to tenured faculty being “released”, resulting in fewer programs, fewer choices, fewer students. Speaking as a “released” tenured faculty member it is disheartening to see yet another burden placed on high education institutions. I was one such faculty member and this appears to be another burden for higher education, specifically those that require a faith statement.

Many students benefit from the education received at institutions that require a faith statement. They are able to then continue at the same or similar institution for fewer years to complete their degree, rather than having this option removed and perhaps choosing not to continue to post secondary education at all due to the financial strain.

Again, I am in opposition to the amendment to SF-1311 and I am asking for the striking of the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of SF-1311.

Thank you,

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