

March 6, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter to let you know that **I am firmly opposed to the amendment to SF 1311 and ask that Senate leaders strike the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of SF-1311v.**

My two students at Southwest Christian have utilized many PSEO classes and it has helped them tremendously grow as a student and challenge themselves academically. The goal of Minnesota education is to help students learn as much as possible and create confidence in their high school journey. For my children, they should be allowed to choose the post-secondary institution that is the best fit for them, regardless of the university's faith affiliation. As an example, my son takes PSEO from Crown College in which he really enjoys his challenging religious classes and getting to know some outstanding Professors, who have provided valuable life lessons as well. He also takes classes at the University of Minnesota through the gifted math students program they have, and has enjoyed that experience as well.

Simply put, it is a mistake to limit student choices when it comes to PSEO, and an even worse idea to eliminate faith-based colleges as a PSEO option. Where do you start drawing the line on schools regarding who is in and who is out? With so many important issues at hand to fix the government and help citizens, do you believe that deciding on colleges for high school kids is what you were elected for? If anything, kids today need more faith and guidance than ever before.

Given my kids' experience, you can understand why I am firmly opposed to the amendment to SF 1311 and ask that Senate leaders strike the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of SF-1311v. I appreciate your consideration and confident you will make the right decision.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren & Elise Wercinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darren" being more prominent.

**Darren & Elise Wercinski**  
**8237 Trillium Lane**  
**Victoria, MN 55386**