

March 6, 2023

To the Minnesota Senate Education Committee

My name is Sten Lindquist and I appreciate the opportunity to testify against the amendment to SF 1311 and 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 gender or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations."

I believe that students should 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 and these programs are needed 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 and flexibility and options are extremely important and valuable. There are currently many choices for PSEO, and no one is obligated to attend a faith-based college. Every college and university offers a different experience and the freedom to choose the best fit is essential.

Thank you for your time.

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