

March 6, 2023

Dear Education Policy Committee Chair Cwodzinski,

My name is Rachel Skoog. I am a mom of three teenage children. This is my written testimony and I'm asking for you to add this to the written record.

I oppose 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.

PSEO is a fabulous program. We have had several friends who have sent their children through the program. All of the children excelled and had wonderful experiences. It allowed them to learn at a higher level, challenge themselves and earn college credit. Many of the students started their college careers with two years of college which was critical for their families to afford college. Without this program, the families would have gone into major debt which would have been nearly impossible to pay off even after years of payments.

I believe that we all want students to excel and be given opportunities. This program provides both.

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. That is a large percentage. 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. This will greatly affect minority groups. Students are entering adulthood with much less college debt because of this program. I've previously stated that I have seen this played out in the lives of people close to me. 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.

Again, I oppose 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.

Sincerely,

Rachel Skoog  
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