

March 6, 2023

Dear Senate Committee Administrator,

I am contacting you to let you know that I am opposed to the amendment to SF-1311 and I 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 race, creed, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations.

The reason I am opposed to this is that I am a current MN licensed Life Science 9-12 educator who has chosen to home school our children. I see the immense financial benefits of PSEO - namely, helping our students to not have large amounts of higher education debt. I want students/families to have the freedom to choose the post-secondary institution that is the best fit for them. We currently live 15 minutes from a Christian college that offers PSEO, and the next nearest secular college that offers PSEO is 40 minutes away. I do not want my new-driver child to have to drive that far in MN winters to attend their PSEO option, when there is a much closer option. I also know that online education is not a good option for students – especially with my education background. I have taught in the public schools and I know that online learning is, at best, bare minimum learning, and at worst, pointless. Having in-person education is a huge benefit to learning for both the educator and the students.

Also, forcing students away from faith based colleges will increase competition for PSEO spots at secular universities and will limit the choices available to students. These programs are providing needed classes for the growing number of students accessing the PSEO option. So, please don't limit the options.

Thank you for serving our community.

Respectfully,

Barbara J. Cone
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