

March 4, 2023

To the Minnesota Senate Education Policy Committee:

I am writing to 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 race, creed, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations.

I request that this letter become part of the WRITTEN TESTIMONY in opposition to this amendment.

My two oldest children have benefitted from taking PSEO courses during their junior and senior years of high school. They appreciated the many options that were available to them and each chose institutions that they felt fit them best. Participating in PSEO allowed them to be adequately challenged in their learning as advanced students. My oldest is completing her Masters degree when her age peers are finishing their undergrad degree. Participating in PSEO drastically reduces the student loan debt our children have needed to complete a degree.

The University of MN receives 1,600 applicants per year for PSEO and accepts only 45% of those applicants.

25% of PSEO students currently attend PSEO at a faith based institution. Forcing students away from faith based colleges to secular universities will only increase the competition for these already limited spots and decrease the choices available to all students.

Please do not limit the PSEO options available to MN students. More choices allow for more options for more students.

I am OPPOSED to 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.

Sincerely,

Melinda Loe
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