

To whom it may concern:

I am formally requesting that you oppose the amendment to SF 1311, and to 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.* As a parent of a current PSEO student, this would affect our family greatly. At present we have one child enrolled at Crown College through the PSEO program. He has been able to explore different career paths with the help of the wonderful administration. Being a smaller school has helped him get the assistance he needs and not feel like just a student id number. The classes he has participated in have been top notch and he is set up for a successful future.

In the near future we have more children that would benefit from the PSEO program. We want them to have the freedom to choose which school would be the best fit for each of them. Taking these schools away from the PSEO program would have a detrimental effect on their future education. Many of the faith-based institutions have smaller class sizes and allow for different learning styles. Having the educational options when looking at PSEO programs is extremely important. Every college and university offers a different experience. The ability to choose which institution is the best fit is necessary.

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. Right now students statewide have many choices when deciding which institution to get their PSEO credit from. No one is **obligated** to attend a faith-based college for PSEO. Currently 25% of PSEO students attend faith-based schools. These options are providing needed classes for the growing number of students accessing the PSEO option. Because of these opportunities, more students are entering adulthood with much less college debt. Please don't limit the accessibility of the PSEO program by eliminating quality institutions.

I am urging you to oppose the amendment to SF 1311, and to strike the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of SF-1311. Continue to allow our high school students to utilize faith-based schools through the PSEO program. Failure to do so will have catastrophic consequences for our children.

Respectfully,

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