

Date: 07 March 2023

To: Senate Committee Administration  
From: Melinda Andrews, Future Parent of PSEO Student

Re: Bill, HF1269/SF 1311

Dear Education Policy Committee Chair Cwodzinski,

I request that this letter will be added as a part of the Written Testimony for the upcoming hearing on Wednesday, March 8th, 2023.

I want to clarify my opposition 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 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 urge you to consider the following points:

- Crown College is one of the institutions this will greatly affect and it's the closest to the SW suburbs of the Twin Cities. We would like to have an option to attend a school that isn't far away thus INCREASING TRAFFIC and USE OF GAS. Crown College provides a great education that works well with being able to attend high school and college at the same time.
- Local options provide the opportunity for students to still be active in their extra curricular programs with their high school.
- We want students to 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.
- 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.
- Extra time and extra costs associated with driving to Minneapolis, parking, weather all impact whether PSEO is cost effective for students and their families.
- A safe environment where teens feel safe to park and attend classes is paramount to provide as an option for families to choose. The understaffed downtown police force is a concern for parents when selecting PSEO options.
- Students are entering adulthood with much less college debt because of this program.
- 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.

It is a vital that you understand my strong opposition 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.

This is my written testimony and I'm asking for you to add this to the written record.

Regards,  
Melinda Andrews

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