

Date: 06 March 2023

To: Senate Committee Administration
From: Nerissa Uplegger, Parent of PSEO Student

Re: Bill, HF1269/SF 1311

To Whom It May Concern:

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:

- 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.
- 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.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Regards,
Nerissa Uplegger

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