

Dear Senate Committee:

I would like to state 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 strongly oppose this for many reasons. We should want students to have the freedom to choose the post-secondary institution that best fits them. Statistics show that 25% of PSEO students attend PSEO at faith-based institutions. By forcing students away from faith-based colleges it is going to increase competition for PSEO spots at secular universities and will thereby limit the choices available to ALL students. Choice and flexibility in which colleges are used for PSEO is extremely important.

Our eldest child is currently a junior in high school and has been taking PSEO classes this year and plans to do the same next year in hopes of acquiring as many college credits as possible before graduating from high school. This would help her to enter adulthood with much less college debt because of the PSEO program. Students state wide have many choices about which institutions from which to get their PSEO credits, so no one is obligated to attend a faith-based college for PSEO, but why should children NOT be able to select one.

Again, I strongly oppose amendment SF 1311.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danielle Antonovich', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Danielle Antonovich

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