

Dear Senate Representative,

We are 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** 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.*

We are opposed to this language in the bill. Our children have utilized PSEO and have greatly benefitted in their personal and professional leadership and educational growth. 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. Flexibility and educational options when evaluating PSEO programs are extremely important and valuable. Every college and university offers a different experience. The freedom to choose which institution is the best fit is essential.

It is very important that you strike this language and preserve the freedom for students to choose the best post-secondary institution for them. Thank you for your time.

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