

RE: SF 1311, 93<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, (2023-2024)

Dear Education Policy Committee Chair Cwodziński,

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

I am opposed to amendment SF 1311. Please 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.

This language

- Discriminates, especially against a number of excellent private colleges in our state, such as
  - Augsburg University, Concordia College, Moorhead Saint Mary's University
  - Bethany Lutheran College Concordia University, St. Paul St. Catherine University
  - Bethel University Gustavus Adolphus College St. Olaf College
  - Carleton College Hamline University University of Northwestern
  - College of Saint Benedict Macalester College University of St. Thomas
  - College of St. Scholastica Saint John's University
- Harms students by limiting the number of eligible providers
- Harms students by adding to their debt, which is a likely result of scarcity driving inability to participate in PSEO classes
- Harms the people of our State as students fall behind those in other states that do not limit student's opportunities to participate in PSEO classes. This in turn contributes to a train wreck of pile up consequences resulting from a lesser education, such as difficulty for industry to attract and retain scarce talent, Tax burden from lower GDP, Social Welfare expenses, etc.
- Departs from federal student loan guidelines, which do provide loans to students at faith based institutions

Thank you for your service, and also for your consideration on this section of this proposed legislation.

With Kind Regards

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