

Dear Education Finance Committee Chair Youakim and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to you about the proposed version of HF-1269 that will be discussed today. As residents of Waconia, we have benefited greatly from the opportunity to send our son and daughter to Crown College as PSEO students alongside their public education at Waconia High School. Our son's experience was literally a life-saver for him as his entire Senior year would have otherwise been spent online. He was in need of face to face learning at this point and was able to do so at a college willing to provide that for him in a smaller, safe environment that fit his needs at the time. He is continuing to thrive as a valued student at Bethel University. These schools have prepared him to be an upright and responsible young man. Our daughter is now a junior at Waconia High School and has also taken classes at Crown College and UNWSP. She is a contributing member of Waconia theatres, show choir, band and choir alongside her studies. She is also thriving because her academic needs are being met at the university level. We hope for our youngest to be able to benefit from this program as well. Please note that there have been several pathways to receiving college credit offered to us including both online and on-campus PSEO, AP courses, and College in the Schools. We have taken the opportunity to try all of them and they are available to everyone. If the bill stands as written, we will be likely be without one of these options that fits our family best.

It is with extreme concern that lines 19.8 through 19.11 in the original version of this proposed bill be struck out. We value the flexibility and educational options that the Minnesota school choice effort has provided for ALL students and wish to see them continued. Having lived in another state, we recognize that this is a privilege and a "gold star" for families of students in Minnesota. It is a wonderful opportunity for institutions of higher education to connect with potential students as well! Every college or university offers a different experience. The freedom to choose which institution fits each student best is important. We are thankful to receive equity in education according to our values and beliefs as those who choose to believe differently than we do. Please do not force our excellent colleges and universities to make choices that may contradict with the values and beliefs that they were founded upon, or worse, to stop offering this opportunity to deserving students. Please, take time to rework this bill to continue to make Minnesota Post Secondary Option available for ALL by striking out news 19.8-19.11 of this bill. Please include our letter as written testimony in opposition of this bill.

Thank you for your service to our Minnesota government,

Kathleen Price, MA Michael Price, MBA

1151 Goldfinch Drive Waconia, MN