

Dear Education Committee Chair Youakim and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to please ask you to oppose the amendment to HF-1269. Please strike the language on lines 19.8 – 19.11 of the original version of HF-1269, which states that, “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 race, creed, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations.”

My family and I are opposed to this for a number of reasons. We have three children, one of which is hoping to utilize the PSEO option for the next three years beginning next year for her 10th grade year. She is a very hard-working, high-achiever, and dedicated young girl who loves MN. For her 10th grade year, she is hoping to take technical classes online to see if her interests in environmental science with an emphasis in sustainability or possibly aviation are truly what she wants to go into. Afterwards, she is hoping to attend the PSEO program through CROWN college. We are worried that if this bill passes, our daughter will lose the option to take her PSEO classes in 11th and 12th grades. We live in Victoria, and Crown is our closest option. We want to give our daughter every option possible to be an independent, confident young woman growing up in such a big world. We want to be there to support her in every way. With a college so close to us, it doesn’t make sense for us to send her off to another college for PSEO.

We are worried that if this bill passes, colleges such as Crown will no longer be able to offer PSEO in person. If that happens, what will happen to the 25% of PSEO students who attend colleges that require a faith statement? Will they have to then go to the other colleges that don’t require a faith statement? Will those colleges be able to accommodate the demand of the additional students or would there be a large number of students declined the PSEO program because the colleges cannot accept as many students?

Also, if this bill passes, what will happen with all the monies that are allocated to those colleges? MN already has a \$17.5 billion surplus. I see it very unfair to deny those colleges monies when you are giving monies to other colleges just because they don’t require a faith statement. The PSEO monies are only allowed on secular classes anyway. The point of colleges is to provide an education to students and to help prepare them to be good members of society.

If you deny monies to these colleges, then you are denying PSEO to certain students. That seems like it is going against what your goal is. If you do not want any sort of discrimination, then please oppose this bill. Let PSEO stand the way it is. Let students attend the colleges of their choice for PSEO. Let them build their confidence in themselves as they grow and in you, the state of MN, who helped them get a head start on their college journey.

Please make this letter become part of the written testimony in opposition to the bill.

Thank you,

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