

March 20, 2023

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

My name is Grace Loe and I am a concerned constituent of MN District 48. I am writing to express my opposition to the amendment to HF-1269 and ask that you strike the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of HF-1269 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 race, creed, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations. I request that this statement be submitted as written testimony in opposition to SF-1311.

As a former PSEO student myself, I am concerned that this amendment will severely limit the freedom students have to choose the best post-secondary institution 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. PSEO spots at secular universities are already limited, and competition for these spots will increase if faith-based institutions are no longer an option. Attending PSEO classes at Crown College allowed me to graduate with my undergraduate degree a year early. I immediately enrolled in a graduate program and will receive my M.S. in Developmental Trauma this July at just 22 years old. My educational accomplishments would not have been possible without the opportunity to enroll as a PSEO student at Crown College. Students 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. Students like myself who benefited from the freedom to choose to attend PSEO at a faith-based institution want future MN students to have this same opportunity.

Again, I urge you to strike the language on lines 19.8 through 19.11 of the original version of SF-1311 that would prevent students like myself from attending PSEO at faith-based institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Loe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Grace Loe  
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Excelsior, MN 55331