

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

This is our written testimony and we would like you to add this to the written record.

We are in opposition to the provision and ask that you strike the provision language in the House Bill HF1269 in regards to faith based colleges no longer being an option for in person PSEO classes in the state of MN.

We have had one former student go through the PSEO program through a faith based institution and have another that will start PSEO classes next fall. Our current student's desire is to either attend PSEO in person at the same faith based college that their sibling attended or the faith based college that is within 15 minutes of our house.

Our experience with the institution that our former PSEO student attended was nothing but wonderful. The teachers were helpful and cared about her as a person, not just a number. She took the same courses one would at a public university or community college, as that is mandated by the state, which leaves us wondering why that can't continue. If the courses that the students are allowed to take have to be of a general nature and not faith based then why change the current situation that has been in place since 1985. We are hoping to have the same wonderful experience we had with our former PSEO student with our next child and our subsequent children after that.

In this provision, you are excluding over 17 universities to provide PSEO to eager students and alienating over 25 percent of your current PSEO population by taking away their choice as to where and/or how they want to take their general classes and help them achieve a college education.

We love the MN PSEO program and want to see it succeed and continue to help all students be able to achieve a college education easier. We ask that you allow all families and students to be able to choose the college environment that would best help them learn to achieve their highest goal, to graduate from college. By stripping students of their rights to choose their academic institution tells them that MN is not interested in them as an individual and/or their learning styles but only interested in government interests telling them where they need to go and how to learn. Don't let the students lose faith and confidence in the MN government. We ask that you allow them to choose the best place to take their PSEO classes for their individual needs whether it be in a public college or a faith based college. Give the students and their families the right to choose the right education for them.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Matt and Mary Bochnicek  
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