

3/20/23

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

I am deeply saddened and concerned that Minnesota's PSEO institutions that include a statement of faith in their missions are potentially being excused from a list of options for students who qualify for such an academic opportunity.

I have two daughters, one who is highly interested in pursuing PSEO beginning next year. My other daughter received two years of high quality PSEO from the University of Northwestern, St. Paul. She is now a traditional student there.

We are a homeschooling family and have made it our educational commitment to seek out the best opportunities for our children. The University of Northwestern was a great fit, not only because of their course offerings, but because of its class sizes and worldview. This is a school that we would not be able to afford to send our children to for four traditional years, but with PSEO, this school became an option for our oldest daughter.

I would understand this bill's efforts if there were no PSEO programs offered through schools that did not have a statement of faith in their mission statement, however, that is not the case. Schools such as Northwestern provide a great option for some families, but obviously not all. With both types of options to choose from, students and their parents have the chance to choose what makes most sense for that particular individual. Removing schools like Northwestern, I believe, is wrong. It will impact our second daughter greatly, now that we have seen the benefits this school offered our older daughter. We desire our second-born to have the same privilege and opportunity.

Thank you for your time,

Tami Rangel
952-994-0754
Rangeltami5@gmail.com