

Feb. 16, 2023

Wilson Lee
Education Policy Committee Administrator
State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Lee and Members of the Education Policy Committee,

As an educator in Minnesota since 2008 and as a parent of current and former PSEO students, I write to oppose the PSEO funding changes in HF1269. These changes would severely and needlessly limit options for high school students who are pursuing higher education. What's more, the changes are pointless because the law already limits these faith-based schools to receiving funding strictly for "non-sectarian" courses only. No student is ever required to attend a faith-based college for PSEO.

The PSEO coursework my students have taken at University of Northwestern and at Crown College has allowed them to be challenged academically in a new learning community. Online and on-campus PSEO options available through these faith-based schools make higher education far more easily accessible, and they help ease some of the financial burden of paying for college. The PSEO courses are limited mostly to general requirements, like psychology and college algebra, which typically transfer to other colleges and universities. In addition, these courses are non-sectarian; they legally cannot involve or relate to a specific faith group.

I urge you as a committee to strike these PSEO funding changes right away.

Also, please attach my letter to the bill as public opposition.

Sincerely,

Diana Barto, Educator
Waconia, MN