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

As a young adult I was able to pay most of my way through a private University largely due to having a full two years of college credits before I started. After working full time the year after I graduated, I was able to completely pay off my Bachelors Degree and become debt free going into marriage. This has helped us tremendously be able to start off on the right foot instead of being weighed down by college debt like so many others I know.

I'd love for our children to be able to use PSEO at the college of their choice if they decide they want to go that route. If PSEO funding is taken away from Christian Universities, I firmly believe that there will be much less options for everyone overall (roughly 25%) and in return **ALL students** will have an even harder time getting into alternate schools for PSEO. This will create **additional student debt overall and less students pursuing higher education**. This seems to be exactly the opposite effect this committee is striving to create. Our children would be forced to go somewhere that may be against their morals if the faith statement is removed or they decide to completely discontinue PSEO. How is this not discriminating towards them? All colleges are already not allowed to use their state funding for anything religious - so why single out Christian Universities and take away the funding they receive for PSEO?

I oppose the wording for PSEO funding in regards to a statement of faith for admission. Please 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 would like my letter to be attached to the bill as a WRITTEN TESTIMONY and PUBLIC OPPOSITION to this bill.

Signed,
Lindsay Rousu
Plymouth, MN