

Dear Education Finance Committee Chair Youakim and Members of the Committee

I am writing to state my opposition to amendment HF 1269 and ask that you strike the language on lines 18.13 through 18.16 of the original version of HF 1269. Please include my letter in the Written Testimony.

I have had two children utilize the PSEO option through Northwestern University and it has been a wonderful experience for both of them. They were challenged in their studies and excelled in the classes they took. They both thrived in the environment of the school they chose! We appreciated the fact that we had the freedom to choose the post secondary institution for PSEO that fit my children best and where they thrived! There are so many choices students have regarding what institution they may attend to get their PSEO credits we appreciated the ability to have the opportunity to choose. We also are very appreciative that we have the PSEO option available for juniors and seniors in high school. My oldest child was able to decrease the amount of college debt due to the one plus year of college that he had completed during high school.

Please strike the language from HF 1269 that states an eligible institution must not require a faith statement during the application process or base any of part of the admission process on a students gender or sexual orientation or religious beliefs or affiliations. For our family the PSEO program is a wonderful opportunity that benefits children greatly and we appreciate the fact that we have choice and flexibility within the PSEO program. Please help us to maintain that.

Thank you ,

Laurie Toews

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