

In regards to funding changes in SF1311 and HF1269, I would like to express my thoughts as a parent who has had two daughters utilize PSEO in the past through Northwestern and also a son at home who hopes to utilize it in the future.

As a conservative Christian family, my daughters appreciated and thrived on the opportunity to further their academic education through PSEO classes at a Christian institution where their beliefs were honored and respected. They never pursued any of the religious classes there, but being surrounded by a school body of teachers and classmates with similar values was extremely valuable to them as they studied their academic coursework.

As a family working and living in a small town in southern MN, there is limited access to local PSEO options. Northwestern was a great fit for our family, not only because their academic offerings are excellent, but also because we were able to utilize their extensive online options and the resources and support that their professors and staff offer PSEO students.

As my son may choose to attend Northwestern or another private MN college for his post-secondary education, it only makes sense for him to pursue his PSEO credits through that university and have them transfer directly into their program.

With as many as 1400 PSEO students at Northwestern alone, there is an obvious need for this type of belief-honoring university as a MN option for PSEO students. There is a reason that Northwestern is one of the largest providers of PSEO in the state... they have a great program!

The current law already limits PSEO funds from being used for religious classes. We are simply requesting the same benefits for all MN students to make academic choices in core subjects in an environment that is conducive to their learning.

Students all across the state of MN have the freedom of choice to get their PSEO credits from a variety of institutions. No one is obligated to attend a faith-based college for PSEO, and we request that our freedoms to choose the academic school of our choice within the state of MN not be limited either.

With gratitude for the time you took to read this request,

Tanya Mairs