

Testimony in Opposition to HF 1269 by Karin Miller, 3/20/23

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

My name is Karin Miller. I am a Wife, Home Educator of our 6 children, and Teacher from Dakota County. I am writing in opposition to HF 1269 for two main reasons:

1. The bill violates the first amendment rights of religious institutions. In this bill, post-secondary institutions that provide PSEO are prohibited from requiring a statement of faith as a part of the admissions process.

Under the first amendment, any individual or institution has the right to operate on the basis of their own religious beliefs. Therefore, they have a right to request or require that students who attend classes on their campus agree with and adhere to these same beliefs.

Students who do not agree with a particular college's faith statement can simply choose to go elsewhere. There are far more secular PSEO options for students than ones that are faith based.

If you pass this bill as is, you will be forcing post-secondary institutions to choose between being able to operate according to their first amendment protected religious beliefs or being able to provide PSEO. They will most likely choose to NOT compromise their beliefs, and thus hundreds of PSEO slots will no longer be available to Minnesota's PSEO students, and fewer students will be able to benefit from this program.

2. The addition of an Ethnic Studies Academic Standard – More than 50% of Minnesotan students are failing to reach basic standards in reading, math, and science. So WHY are we adding additional non-academic standards onto the shoulders of administrators and teachers? Adding an entirely new requirement of Ethnic Studied from K-12 will be extremely costly.

Our schools cannot afford the costly time or money that adding an Ethnic Studies standard would require.

I also do not agree with the Ethnic Studies component of the bill because it is rooted in the language and ideologies of critical race theory. It will only deepen the divides between students and teach them a false ideology that who they are is based on the level of melanin in their skin.

Please watch my testimony on this to the House Education Policy Committee at 17:35 minutes:

[Minnesota House of Representatives \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov)

Thank you very much for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Karin Miller