

March 20, 2023

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

I am asking that this letter becomes part of the written testimony in opposition to Bill HF1269.

I have been a homeschool parent since 2009 and have two children. One participated in PSEO at Crown College for her junior and senior year and one has been accepted for this fall at Crown to complete PSEO (hopefully) for her junior and senior years of highschool.

We live seven minutes from Crown College. The other options for my daughter to attend PSEO are 60 minutes away from our home. In poor weather conditions, a relatively recently licensed driver, driving to the University of Minnesota or Normandale, is not a safe option. Furthermore, I do not feel safe allowing my 16 year old to drive, park, and walk to classes in Minneapolis with the current crime problem.

Crown College has approximately 1300 students, with the student to faculty ratio being 16:1, and an easily navigable college for someone who is 16 years old and attending college. If you eliminate Crown as an option for PSEO, you have eliminated our ability to utilize PSEO.

We moved to Minnetrisa with the understanding that Crown would be a close option for our daughters when they were to do PSEO. We saved in their 529s accordingly for two years of their college to be covered by PSEO and for us to essentially be responsible for the remaining two plus years required to obtain a bachelor's degree.

As a constituent and life-long citizen of Minnesota, I support and ask you, as my representatives, to support our First Amendment right to freedom of religion. Christian colleges, as a PSEO option, have the right to require

religious faith statements. If students are disinterested in attending a Christian college for PSEO, there are a multitude of other options.

As a taxpayer, I have paid into a system of education for which neither of my children have participated. One of the ways we did intend to participate in the MN educational system was through the use of the PSEO program.

I ask you again to please oppose Bill HF1269.

Sarah Murray  
Minnetrista, MN