



New Jersey State Council Knights of Columbus

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2021-14

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL PRAYER

WHEREAS the framers of the American Constitution, recognizing free exercise of religion as an inalienable right, secured its protection in the First Amendment to the Constitution, and

WHEREAS the First Amendment states the following: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances," and

WHEREAS the original intent of the phrase "shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" known as the "Establishment Clause," was to prohibit Congress from either establishing a national religion or interfering with the established religions of the states, and

WHEREAS the original intent of the phrase "prohibiting the free exercise thereof," known as the "Free Exercise Clause," was to protect citizen and institutions from government interference with the exercise of their religious beliefs, and

WHEREAS millions of our fellow Americans have fought for and died to protect our liberties including the free exercise of religion, and

WHEREAS a public school district cannot legally discriminate against students or parents based on a religious viewpoint or religious expression, and

WHEREAS students should be able to express their beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from the discrimination based on the religious content of their submissions and such submissions should be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school district, and

WHEREAS students should be able to pray or engage in religious expression before, during and after the school day in the same manner and to the same extent that students may engage in nonreligious activities or expression.

Patriots Protecting All God's Children

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the New Jersey State Council Knights of Columbus, on this 15th day of May 2021, representing the 59,000 New Jersey Knights along with their families, affirm their support of school prayer and other forms of voluntary religious expression, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Governor and every Senator and Assemblyperson in the New Jersey State Legislature.