

ENROLLED HOUSE  
RESOLUTION NO. 1066 By: Vaughn

A Resolution memorializing the United States Congress to take action to ensure the freedom of religion in public places as guaranteed by the United States Constitution; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded by men and women with varied but strong religious beliefs and ideals; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...", which means that the government is prohibited from establishing an official religion, but also that no barriers shall be erected against the practice of any religion; and

WHEREAS, the establishment clause of the First Amendment was not drafted to protect Americans from religion; rather, its purpose was clearly to protect Americans from governmental control over religion; and

WHEREAS, the federal courts have ruled that prayer in public schools, the presence of the Ten Commandments in public schools, moments of silence in public schools, prayer at public school graduations, and displays of religious symbols on public property, even during holidays and otherwise, are prohibited under the establishment clause of the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives believes that the establishment clause of the First Amendment does not prohibit the free exercise of religion; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma House of Representatives strongly believes that reaffirming a right to voluntary and nonmandated expressions of religion in public places is an important element of the religious freedom of this country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives memorialize the Congress of the United States to take action which will ensure the right of every American to exercise their religious freedom as guaranteed under the provisions of the United States Constitution.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 28th day of May,

1998.

Speaker

of the House of

