

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 199

Expressing the sense of the Congress that prayers and invocations at public school sporting events contribute to the moral foundation of our Nation and urging the Supreme Court to uphold their constitutionality.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 19, 1999

Mr. BONILLA (for himself, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. JOHN, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that prayers and invocations at public school sporting events contribute to the moral foundation of our Nation and urging the Supreme Court to uphold their constitutionality.

Whereas prayers at public school sporting events are entirely consistent with our American heritage of seeking Divine guidance and protection in all of our undertakings;

Whereas sporting events provide a significant and long-lasting impact in character and values development among young people;

Whereas prayers and invocations have been demonstrated to positively affect the fair play and sportsmanlike behavior of both players and spectators at sporting events;

Whereas lower court rulings about prayer at sporting events have placed school and community leaders in the difficult position of choosing between conflicting values, rights, and laws;

Whereas congressional leaders have found value in beginning each legislative day with prayers; and

Whereas statements of belief in a Supreme Power and the virtue of seeking strength and protection from that Power are prevalent throughout our national history, currency, and rituals: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) prayers and invocations at public school
4 sporting events are constitutional under the First
5 Amendment to the Constitution; and

6 (2) the Supreme Court, accordingly, should up-
7 hold the constitutionality of such practices.

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