

Dallas Erickson Testimony
House Judiciary Committee
SB 2 National Motto
March 16, 2005

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3/16/05
SB 2

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am Dallas Erickson and I represent Help Our Moral Environment.

March 3rd of this month we celebrated the 140th anniversary of Congress's approval of inscribing the National Motto, IN GOD WE TRUST, upon all our national coins. Abraham Lincoln signed the bill into law. Less than two months later Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

At a memorial address for Lincoln, Speaker of the House, Schuyler Colfax noted: "Nor should I forget to mention here that the last act of Congress ever signed by President Lincoln was one requiring that the motto, in which he sincerely believed, 'In God We Trust,' should hereafter be inscribed upon all our national coin."

There seems to be a real attempt by some and especially many of our academicians to hide our history and cover the roots of this nation.

The National Motto is an historic document but many of our students have lost that knowledge and some do not want to be reminded.

The Christian Foundation of this nation is firmly established in history but so many can deny that because they are not taught that any more. For example, fifty of the fifty-five men who signed the Declaration of Independence were faithful members of organized Christian churches. They were not atheists, agnostics, or Deists. They were not people that omitted God from their lives. They were not people to whom matters of faith were foreign. America's Founding Fathers were, on the whole, deeply religious. They were committed Christian men who believed in God and His Word.

In fact, we would not have the Bill of Rights today if it was not for a Baptist pastor by the name of John Leland. In addition, Lutheran pastor, John Peter Muhlenberg, Presbyterian pastor, John Witherspoon, and countless other Christian ministers were very influential in America's founding. The first shots fired, that resulted in our freedom from Brittan, were fired in a Church Courtyard and the first lives given for our freedom were members of that Christian Church.

I am awed by Washington's prayer for America part of which I read:

*All Mighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United states at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen."*

"James Madison, the primary author of the Constitution of the United States, said : "We have staked the whole future of all our political constitutions upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten Commandments."

These things have been taken from our text books. We need to display and teach these principles, not as an endorsement of a religion but as a factual part of history and of an endorsement of the truth.

It is sad that a bill like SB 2 has to even be considered. It is time to recognize the authority of State Agencies and local governments to display the historical documents and it is time to recognize that schools have the authority and the responsibility to teach the truth about our national Heritage not some fiction invented by some court decision.

Please pass SB 2.

Sincerely,

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