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Nebraska bill will make Pledge of Allegiance mandatory in public schools

November 20, 2011 By [Dakota O'Leary](#) 3 Comments



A Nebraska senator is planning to introduce a bill that would make saying the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools mandatory. [Fox News adds:](#)

State Sen. Tony Fulton says he will introduce the bill in January. The legislation also would require that each classroom display an American flag.

Now, [schools](#) are required only to have an American flag prominently displayed. And while many students across the state say the pledge each school day, it's not required by state law.

The Nebraska bill would be modeled after a [Massachusetts law](#) that does not compel students to participate in the pledge. Michigan, one of the states that does not have a pledge law, has a bill before its senate that would mandate that every student recite the pledge, according to the paper.

The Supreme Court [has ruled that requiring the pledge in schools is unconstitutional](#) unless it provides for parents or students to opt out (ProCon.org. "Supreme Court Decisions." *UnderGod.ProCon.org*. ProCon.org, 24 Oct. 2008. Web. 20 Nov. 2011).

The hope is that reciting the pledge will teach students patriotism, and American exceptionalism (i.e. nationalism), which Lincoln businessman Richard Zierke feels is slipping away in this country. [The Lincoln Journal Star disagrees with Zierke:](#)

All LPS students learn the Pledge of Allegiance, its meaning and its history, as a part of the elementary social studies curriculum.

There isn't a flag in every one of district's 2,000 classrooms, Ernst said, but most have one.

Students learn about patriotism. There's no high-stakes test for it, he said, but there is a high-stakes reality. Teachers are asked to help students understand what it means to support their country and keep a watchful eye as a citizen.

"We do what we can to produce good citizens," Ernst said.

Whether saying the Pledge of Allegiance daily makes students more patriotic has never been put to any kind of test, he said.

In most Omaha Public Schools classrooms, students are led in the pledge, which comes over the intercom into individual classrooms, spokeswoman Luanne Nelson said. Elementary classrooms have flags, but perhaps not all middle and high school classes, she said.

At Jackson Elementary, a pre-K-6 school that serves a diverse population at 31st and Leavenworth streets, students say the pledge every morning, along with an anti-bullying pledge, Principal Bryan Dunne said.

It's important to have a daily reminder to show the proper respect for the country and classmates, he said.



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Mike Mason, curriculum and instruction director at Scottsbluff Public Schools, said the pledge is part of the morning routine in schools, particularly elementary schools. It is usually led by students.

And there's a flag in every classroom, he said.

At Raymond Central, the pledge is recited every morning in all grades, Superintendent Paul Hull said.



Dakota O'Leary

Dakota O'Leary is a freethinker, and often sassy, scholar of theology and literature. She got her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Theology from the State University of New York College at Buffalo, and her Master of Arts degree in Theology and Literature from Antioch University-Midwest. She is a contributing writer focusing on eschatology, biblical prophecy, and general religious news. Dakota is a co-host of the God Discussion radio show, offering insight to the news stories of the week. We like to call her "our in-house Biblical prophecy expert" as her articles on eschatology have received over 200,000 views on God Discussion.

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admin says:

November 20, 2011 at 2:27 pm

How saying the pledge of allegiance will teach students to be better citizens is beyond me.

As they say, actions speaker louder than words.

Deborah

Like or Dislike: 3 0



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Laura says:

November 20, 2011 at 5:11 pm



Now, this is where my right wing flaps even though it's smaller than my left one. I definitely think all kids k-12 should stand, address the flag and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

My reasoning behind this, and it may be wrong is that our children SHOULD know what loyalty and allegiance means. They should know about Pride & love of country. In regards to "One Nation under God". I believe all gods are one god so...That's my argument for the Supreme Court.

Like or Dislike: 0 2

Reply

Laura says:

November 20, 2011 at 5:28 pm



There is an additional reason that I feel so strongly about all of this. Our Nation has now seen terrorist action. The world is different now and peace & unity are the traits that I would like to embedded in our children.

Every religion believes that THEIR GOD is the only god and the right god AND that is where I feel this country SHOULD come together and recognize that basically all gods are one god. Religious freedom means that Buddha, Allah, Diana, Jesus and all the other gods/goddess can be worshiped freely. I believe that all the different names for all the deity's can be umbrellaed under one word. GOD. With that in place then there is no argument about the word GOD in the pledge of allegiance.

Good topic. I expect to be thoroughly disagreed with however my view is strong and I'm grateful I have the right to share it.

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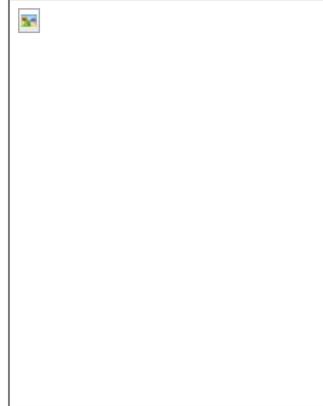
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