

By: Representatives Ford (73rd), Miles,  
Calvert, Mangold, Smith, Yancey

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES TO CALL A CONVENTION FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AN  
3 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO  
4 PRAYER IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND URGING AND REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE  
5 BODIES OF THE SEVERAL STATES TO APPLY TO THE CONGRESS TO CALL SUCH  
6 A CONVENTION.

7 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution provides that, on the  
8 application of the legislatures of two-thirds (2/3) of the several  
9 states, the Congress shall call a convention for the purpose of  
10 proposing an amendment or amendments to the United States  
11 Constitution, which amendment or amendments when so proposed by  
12 such a convention must be ratified by the legislatures of, or  
13 conventions in, three-fourths (3/4) of the states to become valid:

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
16 THEREIN, That the Congress of the United States is hereby  
17 requested to call a convention pursuant to Article V of the United  
18 States Constitution for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment  
19 to the United States Constitution, which amendment shall be  
20 substantially as follows:



21 "ARTICLE \_\_\_\_\_

22       **SECTION 1.** This article may be cited as the School Prayer  
23 Amendment.

24       **SECTION 2.** To secure the people's right to acknowledge God  
25 according to the dictates of conscience: The people's right to  
26 pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage, or  
27 traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be  
28 infringed. The Government shall not require any person to join in  
29 prayer or other religious activity, initiate or designate school  
30 prayers, discriminate against religion, or deny equal access to a  
31 benefit on account of religion. Public prayer in the United  
32 States is a constitutionally protected right and shall not be  
33 deprived of any individual regardless of location or time, whether  
34 organized or voluntary. Neither this Constitution, nor the  
35 constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that  
36 vocalized prayer or the silent meditation thereof be abridged to  
37 any student in class or any organized school function or athletic  
38 event."

39       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United  
40 States is hereby requested to provide as the mode of ratification  
41 that said amendment shall be valid to all intents and purposes and  
42 become a part of the Constitution of the United States when  
43 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths (3/4) of the several  
44 states.



45           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the State of  
46 Mississippi does hereby urge and request the legislative bodies of  
47 the several states to apply to the Congress of the United States  
48 to call a convention for the sole purpose of proposing this  
49 amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

50           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution shall  
51 be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate and to  
52 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; to each  
53 member of the delegation of the State of Mississippi in the  
54 Congress of the United States; and to the presiding officers of  
55 each house of the legislative bodies of the several states of the  
56 Union.

