

Alternative Policy 1

Our first alternative policy is restoring the pledge to its original version. Since 1954 and at the present the words of the pledge are “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” The pledge as it was originally written in 1892 read “I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the republic, for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Supreme Court justice Robert Jackson stated in 1943 that:

If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.
(West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette)

Saying the pledge of allegiance with the words “under God” in it do exactly that. In the year 1998 in Seattle a 13-year-old girl had to stand out in the rain for 15 minutes because she obtained from saying the pledge. Having “under God” in the pledge of allegiance is compelling people to recite something religious and it is wrong.

The advantages of this proposal are:

- ❖ People that don't believe in god (or the Christian “God”) or people of faith who agree with us wouldn't be compelled to say something they don't believe in or agree with.

The disadvantages of this proposal are:

- ❖ People who do believe in god may try to bring the pledge back do its newer version