

Suliana Gonzalez

Laurie Oberg

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“Under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance we have recited since elementary has more history than most people know of. It was written by a Baptist minister and was originally shorter than it is today. Throughout the years it has been changed becoming the Pledge we recite today. Each change was made under a different circumstance. Though there is controversy on whether or not the addition of “under God” is unconstitutional and should be allowed in the Pledge. There are a couple of reasons why “Under God” should remain in the Pledge for on it isn’t a religious statement, it is a way to go back to America’s heritage, though some say that it is unconstitutional under the establishment clause.

The addition of “ Under god” in the Pledge of Allegiance doesn’t make the Pledge a religious statement. “Under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance is a patriotic statement, if that’s unconstitutional then so would the song “God Bless America” as well as “American the Beautiful” (“Lawmaker blast Pledge ruling” 2). The word God in those songs don’t make them a religious prayer but a patriotic song, it is the same thing when it comes to the pledge. “Under God” is used as a “descriptive” and “ceremonial” rather than a prayer or “religious invocation” (Pledge Resources). It is a way to recognize principles of the U.S. and what it stands for.

The heritage and founding of the United States is reflected by the addition of the phrase “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance. The founding fathers founded the United States under a deity. When brought to the attention of the federal court in 2002, the court declared “under God”

as “a recognition of the founders political philosophy that a power greater than the government gives the people their inalienable rights” (Egelko 1). When people think of the Pledge of Allegiance they think about what the United States stands for and what it was founded upon. “God in the Pledge is the best of our national traditions, dating back to Christopher Columbus, continuing with our Founding Fathers, and persisting today.” (Procon. org Federer). “Under God” in the Pledge is a way to commemorate that which the United States was founded on, and what that foundation says about its principles.

To many people “under God” being in the Pledge is unconstitutional and goes against the establishment clause in the first amendment. The establishment says that congress cannot establish a religion. People believe that they made this law to keep the government out of the sensitive topic of religion and ensure religious freedom (procon.org Newdow). If instead of “under God” it said “under no God” or “under Allah” then people would understand why it is inappropriate (procon.org Cline). “Under God” isn’t in the Pledge as a religious prayer nor is it a way for the United States to establish a religion, it doesn’t make it a public prayer. It is a form of, when recited, to show patriotism.

There is much controversy over the phrase “under God” being in the Pledge of Allegiance, and whether or not it should be taken out of the Pledge. The phrase should be kept because it is not a religious statement but a way to acknowledge the root principle of the United States, though some believe it is unconstitutional because it goes against the establishment clause in the first amendment. The phrase “under God” shouldn’t be taken out of the Pledge because it does not establish a religion. “Under God” when reciting the pledge acknowledges the heritage of the U.S. and its principles. The phrase “under God” is a way to show patriotism and not a way

to establish a religion therefore it does not go against the establishment clause in the first amendment.

Works Cited

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