



**Alaska Association of Student Governments  
Resolution #10  
Omitting the phrase “Under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance  
Submitted by Aidan Kuhne and Matthew Cochrane**

**Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Alaska Association of Student Governments;**

1. **Whereas** Alaska Statute 14.03.130 states “...The governing body shall require that the pledge of allegiance be recited regularly, as determined by the governing body. A person may recite the following salute to the flag of the United States or maintain a respectful silence.”;
2. **Whereas** even if students decide to refrain from saying the Pledge of Allegiance, from the time they are in kindergarten to twelfth grade, they will have heard the phrase “Under God” an average of 2,340 times. (In a 180 day school year, once a day, for 13 years);
3. **Whereas** public schools are not allowed to favor any religion;
4. **Whereas** no student should be, by law, forced to acknowledge any deity;
5. **Whereas** the First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion.;
6. **Whereas** the Webster's dictionary states “God: the perfect and all-powerful spirit or being that is worshipped especially by Christians, Jews, and Muslims as the one who created and rules the universe.”;
7. **Whereas** the use of the phrase “Under God” imposes a religion specific pledge on students who follow other religions or refrain from religion altogether;
8. **Whereas** the phrase “Under God” was added to the pledge in 1954, during the Cold War, because President Eisenhower strongly encouraged Congress to add the phrase in response to the threat of Communist Russia. So that it would be clearly visible that America was Christian, while the majority of the Russian Communist were Atheist;

9. **Whereas** wrestling state had to be moved to a new facility because of prayer being held, the Pledge of Allegiance is effectively doing the same thing everyday in schools;
10. **Whereas** removing this phrase does not insult Christians, but rather help uphold the long-held American tradition of separation between church and state;

**Therefore be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Alaska Association Of Student Governments that the phrase “Under God” be omitted from the United States Pledge of Allegiance during our school’s daily reciting.**

**Action Statement:** This resolution if passed by the General Assembly of the Alaska Association of Student Governments shall be presented to the Lower Kuskokwim School District board and Bethel Advisory School Board and sent to:

**Edward Pekar**  
BRHS Principal  
[Edward\\_Pekar@lksd.org](mailto:Edward_Pekar@lksd.org)

**Conor Mewhinney**  
BRHS Dean of Students  
[Conor\\_Mewhinney@lksd.org](mailto:Conor_Mewhinney@lksd.org)

**Larry Strunk**  
BRHS Assistant Principal  
[Larry\\_Strunk@lksd.org](mailto:Larry_Strunk@lksd.org)

**Susan Murphy**  
LKSD Board President  
[Susan\\_murphy@lksd.org](mailto:Susan_murphy@lksd.org)

**Christopher Carmichael**  
ASB Chair  
[Chris\\_Carmichael@lksd.org](mailto:Chris_Carmichael@lksd.org)

### **Works Cited**

- AS 14.03.130  
"Average Length of School Year and Average Length of School Day." Nces.ed.gov. N.p., Jan. 2001. Web. 30 Mar. 2016.  
"Religion and Public Schools." Center for Public Education. N.p., 5 Apr. 2006. Web. 30 Mar. 2016.  
"The Pledge of Allegiance." Ushistory.org. Independence Hall Association, n.d. Web. 30 Mar. 2016.  
Merriam-Webster. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 30 Mar. 2016.

**Passed by the Alaska Association of Student Governments at the Spring 2016 Conference**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taylor Holman", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Taylor Holman, Vice President