

Ohio S.B 34 Testimony

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Education Committee

My name is Tim Throckmorton. I Pastored in Ohio for 22 years and for the last 8 years I have served as the National Director of Church Engagement and Community Impact for the Family Research Council in Washington DC. I speak today in support of Senate Bill 34.

John Adams wisely said, *“There are two types of education: One should teach us how to make a living, and the other how to live.”*

It was President George Washington in his second inaugural address who wisely reminded Americans: *“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness—these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.”*

As the proposed bill states...The Ten Commandments have been a core part of an essential American education for more than three centuries. They not only appeared in the very first textbook published in America, The New England Primer (1690), but were also present in America's most famous reading and history books, including McGuffey's Readers and Noah Webster's History of the United States.

The Decalogue addresses what were long considered to be man's vertical and horizontal duties. Noah Webster, the man personally responsible for Art. I, Sec. 8, ¶ 8, of the U. S. Constitution, explained two centuries ago: *The duties of men are summarily comprised in the Ten Commandments, consisting of two tables; one comprehending the duties which we owe immediately to God – the other, the duties we owe to our fellow men.*

William Findley, a soldier in the Revolution and a U. S. Congressman, who declared: *[I]t pleased God to deliver on Mount Sinai a compendium of His holy law and to write it with His own hand on durable tables of stone. This law, which is commonly called the Ten Commandments or Decalogue.*

Additionally, John Quincy Adams, who bore arms during the Revolution, served under four Presidents and became a President, and who was nominated (but declined) a position on the U. S. Supreme Court under President Madison, similarly declared: *The law given from Sinai was a civil and municipal as well as a moral and religious code; it contained many statutes ... of universal application – laws essential to the existence of men in society, and most of which have been enacted by every nation which ever professed any code of laws. ... Vain, indeed, would be the search among the writings of profane antiquity ... to find so broad, so complete and so solid a basis for morality as this Decalogue lays down.*

In addition to their specific references to the Decalogue, the Framers also used other terms to describe that code of laws – terms such as the “moral law.” For example, John Witherspoon, a Pastor, the President of Princeton and a signer of the Declaration, declared: *[T]he Ten Commandments ... are the sum of the moral law.*

And Thomas Jefferson agreed, declaring that “*the moral law*” is that law “*to which man has been subjected by his creator.*”

Today... There are 23 marble relief portraits over the gallery doors of the House Chamber in the U.S. Capitol depicting historical figures noted for their work in establishing the principles that underlie American law. They were installed when the chamber was remodeled in 1949-1950.

Looking square in the eye of Speaker Mike Johnson each and every session of Congress is Moses... The Hebrew prophet and lawgiver. Who

was used by God to transform a wandering people into a nation... it was he who from God received the Ten Commandments.

It has been said that the fruit of our lives grows on the trees of others...
This bill will add value to the children and the future of Ohio.
I urge your support of Senate Bill 34