

IOWA LEGISLATIVE PRAYER CAUCUS

A CALL TO PRAYER FOR IOWA

THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS CITIZENS HAVE DRAWN STRENGTH, HOPE, AND GUIDANCE BY PRAYER AND HUMBLE PETITION BEFORE A LOVING AND MERCIFUL CREATOR—IMPLORING HIM TO WATCH OVER THIS NATION, ITS LEADERS, AND HER PEOPLE. THROUGH THIS SIMPLE TRUST IN GOD, IOWANS HAVE ENDEAVORED TO SHOW THEIR COMMITMENT WHEN DUTY CALLS, TO OFFER DIGNITY AND COMPASSION TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE AND BRING ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE FACE OF UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES.

THE FAITH-BASED PRINCIPLES THAT ESTABLISHED AMERICA, INCLUDING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, GUARANTEE THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND ITS EXPRESSION. THE MORAL AND SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE, DRAWS MANY SERVANTS WHO BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER—TO PURSUE HUMILITY IN GOVERNANCE, WISDOM IN DECISION-MAKING, COURAGE IN TIMES OF TESTING, AND PROVIDENCE FOR GOD’S FAVOR AND BLESSING.

ON MAY 24, 1774, WHEN FACING ENORMOUS CHALLENGES, CAUCUS MEMBERS FROM THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSES PASSED A RESOLUTION SETTING APART A DAY OF “FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.” IN EARLY 2005, A SMALL GROUP FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEGAN MEETING IN ROOM 219 OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL TO PRAY FOR OUR NATION. THE GRAVITY OF THIS MEETING WAS DERIVED FROM THE HUMBLE AND SINCERE BELIEF THAT GOD COULD HEAL AND RESTORE AMERICA. SOON THEREAFTER, THESE MEMBERS FORMED THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER CAUCUS TO VIGILANTLY WATCH OVER AND PROTECT THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO PRAY.

WE STAND AT THE THRESHOLD OF ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CROSSROAD: EITHER TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND EMBRACE THE VIBRANT CHARACTER OF OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE OR TO PLUNGE HEADLONG INTO THE POSTMODERN VOID—A VALUE-NEUTRAL AND AMORAL VACUUM THAT ENDEAVORS TO DECONSTRUCT MUCH OF WHAT WE HOLD SACRED.

CENTURIES AGO, THE BIBLE RECORDS IN 2 CHRONICLES 7:14 THAT GOD TOLD KING SOLOMON:

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

WITH CLEAR VISION AND THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL RE-AFFIRMATION OF “IN GOD WE TRUST” AS OUR NATIONAL MOTTO, IT BECOMES MORE EVIDENT HOW IMPORTANT PRAYER IS TO THIS COUNTRY AND TO IOWANS. AS SUCH, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE PREAMBLE OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, WHICH CLEARLY ADVOCATES A FAITH-BASED COMMITMENT BY STATING:

“We the people of the state of Iowa, grateful to the Supreme Being for the blessings hitherto enjoyed, and feeling our dependence on Him for a continuation of those blessings, do ordain and establish a free and independent government, by the name of the State of Iowa.”

AS A STATE WITH A LEGACY THAT DESIRES TO HUMBLY LEAD WHERE ABLE—SYMBOLIC OF OUR DIVERSE CULTURE, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY, STRONG FAMILY TRADITIONS, AND RECOGNITION FOR HOLDING THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS EVERY FOUR YEARS—IOWA CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE A STEADFAST REGARD FOR INDEPENDENCE, THE FREE EXPRESSION OF FAITH, AND A STRONG CHRISTIAN ETHIC.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WHO BELIEVE IN PRAYER AND THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES THAT REMIND US OUR RIGHTS COME FROM ALMIGHTY GOD, UNITE IN THIS PROCLAMATION. ACCORDINGLY, THIS DAY WE RESPECTFULLY AND HUMBLY ISSUE A “CALL TO PRAYER” FOR THE STATE OF IOWA AND INVITE IOWANS EVERYWHERE TO PRAY THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO BLESS THIS COUNTRY, OUR NOBLE STATE AND THE FREEDOM FOR WHICH THEY STAND.