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PENCE URGES PROTECTION OF TEN COMMANDMENTS

Washington, Sep 4, 2003 - WASHINGTON, D.C. – At a Capitol Hill press conference today, Congressman Mike Pence today called on House leadership to act to protect the display of the Ten Commandments.

Pence joined Congressman Robert Aderholt from Alabama and new Family Research Council President Tony Perkins in urging House leaders to bring the Ten Commandments Defense Act (H.R. 2045) to the floor for a vote.

“The American people overwhelmingly support non-coercive display of the Ten Commandments,” said Pence. “And our founders prohibited the establishment of religion, but they certainly established respect for religion in the law.

“I believe God is real and He blesses those nations that acknowledge Him,” said Pence. “As Abraham Lincoln said, ‘only those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.’

“For all those reasons, the Ten Commandments Defense Act is vitally important.”

The legislation will protect the authority of individual states to display the Ten Commandments in public places. The basis for the legislation is the Tenth Amendment, which states that those powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved for the states. The legislation also ensures the freedom of religious expression under the First Amendment to the Constitution. The bill in no way mandates that the Ten Commandments be displayed at any time, any place or in any state.

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