



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 22, 2003

Dr. Mark R. Stoner
3007 Sandhurst Court
Sacramento, California 95821-4418

Dear Dr. Stoner:

Thank you for your letter about prayer in school. I appreciate your interest in this important issue.

I am committed to the First Amendment principle of religious freedom. Respecting the beliefs of others is a hallmark of the American way of life. I support the rights of students to participate in the free exercise of religion – including voluntary and student-initiated prayer in school. However, I believe that decisions concerning school prayer should be left to local school districts, not the Federal Government.

Thank you for writing. I appreciate hearing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush".

George W. Bush