

June 26, 2002

Rep. Akin's Statement on Pledge of Allegiance Being Ruled Unconstitutional

Washington, D.C.- Today, a federal appeals court ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance is an unconstitutional endorsement of religion and cannot be recited in schools. Congressman Todd Akin has released the following statement:

"If we were to follow that line of reasoning, we would find our very Declaration of Independence unconstitutional. Congress starts its business every morning with the Pledge of Allegiance. A Member's very oath of office refers to God. It is obvious that we are one nation under God.

"Today's decision is wrong and demonstrates a misunderstanding of our constitution. It confuses freedom of religion with freedom from religion and reflects an attempt by some to create a purely secular state.

"I encourage the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and believe that American's dedication to the tradition will prevail."