

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREETHINKERS ENDORSE ACTION OVER PRAYER

Food Drive on Thursday, May 5, at State Capitol

OKLAHOMA CITY – In a counter to the National Day of Prayer (NDP), local church/state separationists are taking the approach of taking action. Members of Oklahoma Atheists will be holding a food drive, to benefit the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, on the south steps of the State Capitol Building in Oklahoma City from noon until 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2011. Group members will also address the crowd.

Established by an act of Congress in 1952, the NDP violates separation of church and state by allowing for a government-backed time for prayer and worship. The American Humanist Association, who back the National Day of Reason, states the NDP is unconstitutional and says, “Overtly and exclusively Christian prayers in government sanctioned events discriminate against those of minority belief systems as well as those without religion.”

Besides discrimination and misappropriation of tax dollars, the NDP sets the stage for government-controlled beliefs and practices. Americans United for Separation of Church and State have issued “What’s Wrong with the National Day of Prayer?” – and say in it, “Allowing government to set aside certain days for prayer and worship implies that the state has some say over our religious lives when it does not. It is simply not the business of government to advise when, if and how people pray.”

Inspired by blood drives and charity events around the country, the Oklahoma Atheists held a similar event last year, collecting boxes upon boxes of food for the Regional Food Bank. Toting a sign that reads, “The hands that help are better far than the lips that pray.” (a quote from Robert G. Ingersoll), the group hopes that those in the faith and non-faith communities will take action on this first Thursday in May.

For more information, please contact:

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Oklahoma Atheists (AOK) mission is to develop a community of individuals and families who value and promote critical thinking, freethought, reason and a scientific worldview - as opposed to the acceptance of faith and dogma - and who seek to have a positive effect on the community at large through fellowship, ethical and rational discussion, community service, and education.