

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 185

To prohibit the provision of Federal funds to any State or local educational agency that denies or prevents participation in constitutional prayer in schools.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 1997

Mr. HELMS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To prohibit the provision of Federal funds to any State or local educational agency that denies or prevents participation in constitutional prayer in schools.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Voluntary School Pray-
5 er Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FUNDING CONTINGENT ON RESPECT FOR CON-**
2 **STITUTIONAL SCHOOL PRAYER.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provi-
4 sion of law, no funds made available through the Depart-
5 ment of Education shall be provided to any State or local
6 educational agency that has a policy of denying, or that
7 effectively prevents participation in, constitutional prayer
8 in public schools by individuals on a voluntary basis.

9 (b) **LIMITATION.**—No person shall be required to par-
10 ticipate in prayer, or shall influence the form or content
11 of any constitutional prayer, in public schools.

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