

Statement adopted at the 69th Hadassah National Convention

AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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PRAYER IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, firmly believes that the provision for freedom of religion and the separation of church and state, as embodied in the First Amendment to the Constitution, prohibits government agencies, such as public schools, from fostering religious practices or beliefs.

Hadassah, therefore, opposes prayer in the public schools including “moments of silence,” whether required or voluntary.

In particular, we oppose attempts to deny to the federal courts, including the Supreme Court, jurisdiction in suits challenging the constitutionality of “voluntary” prayer in public schools.

We believe that prayer is a private religious issue for each individual.