



PRESS RELEASE

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ATHEIST DISPLAY IS LATEST ATTEMPT TO GET RID OF NATIVITY Family Council: Display is More than a Free Speech Issue

In a statement on Monday, Family Council Director, Jerry Cox, questioned the ruling by federal judge Susan Webber Wright. Judge Wright ruled in favor of the ACLU's lawsuit on behalf of the Arkansas Society of Freethinkers, a group of local atheists who want to exhibit an atheist display on State Capitol grounds. Secretary of State Charlie Daniels denied the society's request to erect such a display, so the ACLU brought the issue to federal court. Daniels intends to comply with the court ruling and allow the display.

In the wake of Judge Wright's ruling, the atheist group intends to erect a display near the Nativity on the south lawn of the State Capitol. The display is scheduled to be completed by Wednesday.

"Atheists and the ACLU have opposed the Nativity for years. They're trying to create so much controversy that the Secretary of State will simply remove all displays. That's been their goal all along, to get rid of the Nativity," Cox said.

After a similar situation occurred at the State Capitol in the state of Washington, officials there decided to remove both Christian and atheist displays.

"If people think these atheist groups are going to stop with the removal of the Nativity, they need to think again. They've been pushing their agenda since the removal of prayer from schools and they will continue to push it as long as they can," Cox said.

"The truth is, the ACLU is trying to force federal judges to get involved in state matters, simply because they don't like the focus to be on Christmas. These so-called 'free thinkers' and the ACLU are the same people who have tried for years to remove Nativity displays from public. This is their latest attempt to attack the celebration of Christmas as a Christian holiday," said Cox.

The Family Council is a conservative education and research organization based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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