

By federal order, the monument to the Ten Commandments that Justice Roy Moore installed in the Alabama Supreme Court was removed on Wednesday. Like many Americans, I have watched as Alabama's struggle to display our Christian heritage has unfolded. I had hoped and prayed that the courts would stand up for our rights, and I am disappointed. It is my sincere hope that the U.S. Supreme Court will override the Federal Court's decision.

The efforts of groups like the ACLU to remove religion from our public life is not in the best interest of our country. I have however, found hope in the sight of so many people standing up for their beliefs.

Too often, freedom *of* religion is confused with freedom *from* religion. The United States of America is a spiritual nation. Our faith and belief in our Creator should not and cannot be separated from our sense of justice. That is why the Constitution of the State of Mississippi acknowledges God and asks for his blessing. As Governor, I have always believed that, together, if we trust in God, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

The Ten Commandments are the basis for our legal tradition. That is why they were set in a place of honor in the Alabama Supreme Court and that is why their removal is such a tragedy. Because it was not just a monument to one man's personal beliefs, but a symbol of the abiding beliefs and traditions of this country – justice, freedom and faith.

As the Governor of the great State of Mississippi I would be proud to stand up for our values and display this tribute to the Ten Commandments, God's law, in our State Capitol for a week starting Sunday, September 7. I have written Chief Justice Moore of Alabama to ask him to allow this monument of the Ten Commandments to become a display of our nation's faith. It is my intent to work with other Governors to move this monument to other states to show support for our common Judeo-Christian heritage.