

House Concurrent Resolution No. 13

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1423L.011

1 **Whereas**, many citizens have found the reasoning behind and the practical results
2 of court decisions relating to school prayer difficult to understand since the 1962 U.S. Supreme
3 Court decision in *Engel v. Vitale*; and

4 **Whereas**, current Gallup polls indicate that as recently as August 2001, seventy-
5 eight percent of those polled favored a constitutional amendment to allow voluntary prayer in
6 public schools; and

7 **Whereas**, the 107th Congress had before it two House Joint Resolutions and a
8 Senate Joint Resolution that proposed an amendment to the United States Constitution to permit
9 voluntary school prayer, but after referral to committee and then subcommittee, all three Joint
10 Resolutions were never actively considered; and

11 **Whereas**, the 108th Congress currently has before it a House Joint Resolution
12 sponsored by Representative Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri that proposes an amendment to the
13 United States Constitution to permit voluntary school prayer and which was referred to the
14 House Committee on the Judiciary on January 7, 2003; and

15 **Whereas**, with a clear majority of people in favor of such an amendment, the
16 United States Congress should be moving with deliberate speed to consider the matter, especially
17 given the events of September 11, 2001, the pending threat of war with Iraq, the escalation of
18 tensions with North Korea, and the ongoing war on terror being waged in Afghanistan:

19 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
20 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
21 concurring therein, hereby urge the 108th Congress to take up and pass the proposed amendment
22 to the United States Constitution that would permit voluntary prayer in public schools; and

23 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of

24 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for each
25 member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.