

DISTRICT OFFICE  
820 DAVIS STREET, STE. 103  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201  
847-424-9898  
847-424-9828 FAX  
julie@juliehamos.org



SPRINGFIELD OFFICE  
256-W STRATTON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
217-782-8052  
217-557-7204 FAX  
www.juliehamos.org

**JULIE HAMOS**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

July 3, 2007

Robert A. Wilson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Bob,

I am writing in response to your letter about Senate Bill 1463 – the Silent Reflection and Student Prayer Act. This bill requires a teacher to observe a brief period of silence at the opening of every school day. SB 1463 passed in the Senate 86 – 26, and passed in the House 86 – 26. It is awaiting the Governor's signature, at which time it will become effective immediately.

While I cherish our Constitutional right to religious freedom, I am also mindful that our Constitution requires neutrality between church and state that neither advances nor inhibits religion. I believe that fundamentally it is up to each individual to make a personal decision as to whether, how, or when he or she chooses to pray, reflect or meditate. I also believe that where children are involved, parents should be allowed to make this personal decision on their behalf. Finally, the legislation adds another mandate to our over-stressed teachers and schools.

For all of these reasons, but primarily because I do not believe this legislation follows the spirit of the Constitutional separation of church and state, it did not get my support in the General Assembly. Thank you for sharing your views with me.

Best regards,

Julie Hamos  
State Representative, 18<sup>th</sup> District