

# Press Corps

November 16, 2023

## Courtroom Arguments



### ORU-504

Bill ORU-504 is presented by Representative Burris. The purpose of this bill is to require all public schools in Oklahoma to implement the Ten Commandment principles in the school curriculum. This adds morals, integrity, and etiquette classes to the public school curriculum. Listed in this bill

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there are seven out of the Ten Commandments. Representative Burris left out “You shall have no other Gods before me”, “You shall not make idols”, and “You shall not murder.”

Representative Burris says that she left these three Commandments out because they are too controversial for people to agree on. She said “Christian or not people can agree on these (the Commandments added in the bill).” When Representative Burris was writing this bill she wanted to keep the bill as respectful to everyone and their choice in religion.

While the bill was in caucus there were many small groups with people talking about their opinions. The proponent group consisted of about 5 people against the rest of the house. Both sides had many good points. The whole caucus and questions time was full of discussion over amendments to make and if any of them could fix the argument.

One caucus group was talking over if it was even legal to pass this bill, due to it seeming to be unconstitutional. This caucus group liked the overall idea of the bill, but did not like the fact that it was not keeping the church and state separate. Representative Perez (OU) said, “I send my kid to school, not to learn about morality.” and “if there is a question about behavior that is what detention is for.”

During the end debate of the bill the question that was asked was, “who are the voices not in this room, do the ten commandments represent them?” The people not in the house are the people that the Representatives are representing. As a state representative, they need to be thinking of those people, not their own personal opinion of good and bad bills.

