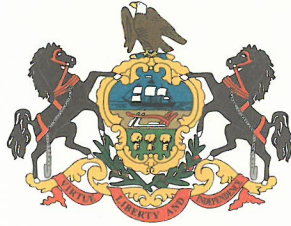


CLANCY MYER
PARLIAMENTARIAN



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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

September 9, 2015

Alex Luchenitser
Associate Legal Director
Americans United for Separating of Church and State
1901 L Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Luchenitser:

Speaker Turzai has asked me to respond to your correspondence dated August 26, 2015, regarding your request that certain Pennsylvania nontheists be permitted to deliver nontheistic invocations at the opening of the House's sessions.

House Rule 17 provides, inter alia, that the first order of business shall be prayer by the chaplain. (underlining supplied) This same Rule provides that the Chaplain shall be a member of a regularly established church or religious organization or shall be a member of the House. (underlining supplied) Chaplains are recommended to us by members of the House. The individuals about whom you inquired do not meet the requirements of House Rule 17.

Additionally, for the reasons outlined in former Speaker Smith's letter to Mr. Silverman dated September 25, 2014, we do not believe our Rule and our policy violate the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Town of Greece, New York v. Galloway*.

Accordingly, we cannot approve your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clancy Myer".

Clancy Myer
Parliamentarian

cc: All House Members