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**David Niose** <[dniose@americanhumanist.org](mailto:dniose@americanhumanist.org)>

Dear Governor Brandstad,

Please add the American Humanist Association to the list of organizations objecting to your recent executive proclamation encouraging citizens to participate in a four-day Bible-reading marathon from June 30 to July 3. The proclamation, which contains statements such as the declaration that "all Scripture is essential to prepare us to be the people God wants us to be," as well as a number of historical claims that are biased and inaccurate, is an outrageous violation of church-state separation.

Your divisive proclamation can only be understood as pandering to a certain religious demographic while offending those who hold differing religious views. It is inconceivable that you could believe that Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, and nonreligious citizens would see the proclamation as an inclusive statement that promotes universal values. On the contrary, you must have known when making the proclamation that you were pleasing a certain base of voters while being divisive and invidious toward other good citizens.

Of course, you may personally believe that individuals should read the Bible daily, but to use the apparatus of government to promote that idea, and to use your public office to make other theological claims that endorse specific religious doctrines, violates your duty to uphold the Constitution. Your actions are inviting litigation. We urge you to withdraw the proclamation and refrain from any further actions that offend the Wall of Separation.

**David A. Niose**

Legal Director

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