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**Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick: Statement Celebrating U.S. Supreme Court's Kennedy vs. Bremerton School District Ruling**

HOUSTON TX – Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick issued this statement today praising the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Kennedy vs. Bremerton School District:

"Joe Kennedy, a high school football coach from Washington and a Christian, was fired for refusing to stop kneeling in prayer after games. Today, I applaud the U.S. Supreme Court for affirming our First Amendment right to freely practice religion. Today's judicious ruling is a great victory for Americans of all faiths.

"Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has issued its decision in Kennedy's favor, it is abundantly clear that government cannot infringe on personal displays of prayer.

"As a freshman Senator in 2007, I passed legislation to place "In God We Trust" in the Senate chamber for the first time in Texas history. I was also the Senate sponsor to place "Under God" in our state pledge that session.

"Since I became Lt. Governor, preserving the First Amendment rights of Texans to practice religion has been one of my top priorities. The Senate passed the Religious Liberty bill and will continue to make this issue a priority. I will always stand to protect the free exercise of religion."

More information about Dan Patrick is available at [www.DanPatrick.org](http://www.DanPatrick.org).

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