AMERICAN ATHEISTS

July 20, 2016

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. McCarthy,

During your speech on Tuesday, July 19, at the Republican National Convention you stated that "Republicans believe in an America that isn't divided by … religion." This was a refreshing and uplifting sentiment to hear from a leader of a political party in which atheists and minority religious groups often feel unwelcome.

You also stated in your speech that party leaders had received the message from Republicans who were tired of "feeling that your government is ignoring you." Therefore, on behalf of the more than 350,000 members and supporters of American Atheists and the millions of atheist Americans—many of whom are conservatives—we respectfully request that you sponsor a humanist chaplain to give the invocation on the floor of the U.S. House.

The House Chaplain has stated that a member of the U.S. House must sponsor a visitor who gives the invocation. We are asking you to do this to show that the Republican party is not just a Christian party, but one that is open to citizens of all religious traditions—and those who have no religious beliefs.

Atheists and those who identify as "not religious" are now the largest "religious" demographic among millennials, and they are the fastest growing demographic among all age groups. We are tired of being ignored by our elected officials. If the Republican party would like our votes, we encourage you to take this opportunity to show us that this party is truly committed to being inclusive.

We respectfully ask that you provide a response to this request by September 16, 2016. American Atheists would be happy to assist you and your office with finding an appropriate humanist chaplain to deliver the invocation and to answer any questions you might have.

We hope to hear from you and look forward to working with you on this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Amanda Knief
National Public Policy Director
American Atheists