

## How the Constitution Impacts My Life Today

“To live under the American Constitution is the greatest political privilege that was ever accorded to the human race,” says Calvin Coolidge in 1923. From the sequoias of California to the Appalachians of the east, this beautiful country is full of citizens who are undeniably fortunate to live in a nation protected by a document that is so powerful: the constitution. We are given the privilege of the Bill of Rights, defining the freedoms we have that much of the rest of the world does not. As I have grown up with these promises, I have never been a kid who has avoided saying what is on my mind. I have certainly been bitten with the stark reality that it is not always appropriate to do so, but I always have and always will live my life in appreciation of my freedom of speech. Along with this freedom, I am so fortunate to have the right to bear arms, the right to worship my God, and the right to vote for those I think will represent me well.

The constitution guarantees a number of liberties that are so heavily taken for granted by a saddening amount of people. Further than this, these freedoms are often viewed agnostically by many, and suddenly the firm promises of the constitution are no longer guaranteed. In the last twenty or thirty years, a common trend can be seen that we are slowly but surely moving away from everything this country stands for. Common themes of today’s news would be unimaginable to anyone a few decades ago. What to them would seem like a catastrophic giant leap away from common sense has been accomplished with no second thought in a series of small progressive steps. And with this, the words of the documents defining our great nation are being chipped away one letter at a time. From “One nation, under God,” to “I pledge allegiance,” my generation is forgetting everything the founding fathers poured their lives into assuring us.

The constitution and the Bible govern my life, although a good majority of the time I think I spend more time fighting for these freedoms than living in them. I am so blessed to live in

a place such as Weld County where I still get to enjoy them, but I am seeing them erode before my eyes with every passing day. Simple things that should not be in question are being stripped from our citizens with no reservation. When “shall not be infringed” is translated to “only in specific circumstances,” pastors are arrested for assembling the Church, and unborn lives are no longer considered lives, we know that our underlying foundations are under attack.

Unfathomable things that represent nothing resembling what we stand for under the constitution aren't just coming from society's fringe, but the White House.

I am thankful that I live in a country where I have the ability to speak out on things that I disagree with, and even more so I have the ability to do something about it and put my words into action. The constitution is what makes this possible, so with every breath I will continue to fight for the rights it has provided me, even when this world makes it a disheartening battle. As said by Thomas Sowell, “The Constitution cannot protect us unless we protect the Constitution.”

“We the people” seems to mean more to me than it does for much of our country today. I will always stand for the flag, and I will never forget the principles that define it that so many have given their lives for. I pray every day that more people will learn to cherish this, and that we can bring this nation back to the way it was created to be. September 17th will bring a day that needs to be used for a reflection of what the constitution means to each and every one of us, and I hope that we can come to agreement that it's freedoms are so foundationally key to what makes our country great. “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” and a nation divided against itself will surely crumble.