



### ***Unalienable Rights***

The Declaration of Independence, adopted on July 4, 1776 by the Second Continental Congress, formally announced the thirteen American colonies' separation from Great Britain. This Declaration is considered a foundational document of the United States, marking the beginning of the nation's independence.

The second paragraph of the Declaration states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The Founding Fathers recognized that there are certain unalienable rights—rights so essential and fundamental that they are beyond the reach of any authority to remove or infringe upon.

They viewed the right to life as the first and most essential unalienable right. The Founders pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor in support of the Declaration and the cause of American independence, including the right to life. As a result: Nine signers died from wounds or hardships caused by the war, one-third lost their fortunes, and all 56 signers endured suffering rather than recant their position

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty advocates for the right to life for all people, regardless of age or stage of life.

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