

LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Religious Liberty – The Foundation of America

Religious liberty stands as the foundation for America. Long before the nation was formed, diverse groups of settlers crossed the Atlantic seeking the freedom to worship according to their faith. Pilgrims, Puritans, Quakers, Baptists, Catholics, and others carried with them a conviction that worship must never be coerced or prescribed by the government, only protect matters of belief.

As America approached nationhood, the prevailing belief was that the free exercise of religious faith would foster a virtuous and prosperous populace.

As Samuel Adams wrote from Boston on April 30, 1776, “religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness.”

When the Constitution was drafted, the very first protection in the Bill of Rights guaranteed that Congress would neither establish a religion nor prohibit its free exercise. The Founders placed religious liberty first because they understood it as the guardian of all other freedoms. A people free in conscience can speak, assemble, and govern themselves with integrity.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty advocates for and encourages all who labor to defend and protect Religious Liberty.

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