



# LCRL PRAYER PARTNERS

## JULY: RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

### The Foundation of Religious Liberty

Religious liberty was a foundational principle upon which the American colonies were established. Group after group left Europe seeking to escape the dictates of state-sponsored religion. Puritans, Pilgrims, Quakers, and Baptists were among the first settlers of the New World, free to worship God according to their faith traditions.

Rhode Island was uniquely founded on the principle of religious liberty. The Rhode Island Royal Charter of 1663, granted by King Charles II, was groundbreaking in its protection of religious freedom. It legally allowed its inhabitants to worship as they pleased without government interference.

The Founding Fathers saw religious liberty as essential to a free society, shaping both legal protections and cultural values. Their views varied, but they generally agreed that freedom of conscience was a fundamental right that must be protected from government interference.

This consensus was demonstrated when they adopted Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, which states: *"No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."* This ensured that members of Congress and other officials were free from governmental regulations concerning religious beliefs.

The Founders further affirmed the central place of religious liberty in the United States when they drafted the First Amendment, placing religious liberty first among the rights it enumerates—before freedom of speech, press, assembly, and petition.

Today, members of Congress are entrusted with the responsibility to defend the Constitution and all its rights, including those outlined in the First Amendment. The Constitution is clear:

- The government may not establish an official religion or favor one faith over another.
- The First Amendment ensures individuals can freely practice their religion without government interference.

The battle for religious liberty, which began in 1663, continues today as some seek to weaken the protections of the First Amendment through legislative means. Members of Congress stand on the front lines in the fight to uphold the Constitution.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty asks for your partnership in prayer for those in Congress, elected to *"support and defend the Constitution of the United States."* These individuals stand firm in protecting and defending the foundational right of religious liberty.

Let Us Pray:

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV*

Almighty and everlasting God, You rule all things in heaven and earth. Give Your wisdom to the Senators and Representatives of this government and all those who labor with and for them, that they may seek to govern with justice and compassion. As they create policies and legislation, cause them to defend the lives of all people. We pray that they may seek to do what is right in Your eyes and that all their decisions would be founded in justice and truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless those who serve in Congress. Grant that they may seek wise decisions for the general welfare and to serve You faithfully; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let Us Encourage:

PRINT – PERSONALIZE – Pray

The LCRL asks that you would commit to pray for the members of the United States Congress during the month of July.

Not only do we ask that you would pray, but that you would share this prayer request with your family, friends, neighbors, and congregation.

In order to pray for your members by name, please use <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> (enter your address to find your specific members).

The LCRL reminds you that many members of congress are in their home districts during the month of July.

A short phone call, email, or text to your elected officials is a way to share your concern, support, ideas, and that you are praying for them.

That contact information is available on their page.

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Please feel free to personalize this bookmark with the name(s) of your Congress members that you will pray for in July, cut it out and keep it in your Bible for handy reference.

Senator:

Senator:

Representative:

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