

The Bill of Rights and me

When our founding fathers created the constitution, they established a new government that broke free of the tyranny of the British. However, learning from history, our leaders knew that government power could be abused. Thus, they created the Bill of Rights to protect our freedoms and balance power between the government and the people they serve.

The Bill of Rights creates a safe and fair system for individuals like me to cherish. One way I am reminded of this privilege is through the First Amendment, which gives me the right to free speech. I am a minority student, but regardless of my background, the Bill of Rights helps give me equal representation and treatment in this country. When my school district was considering ending our speech and debate program, I promoted a petition to continue funding it. Because of the Bill of Rights, I will always be able to speak for what I believe in. Unfortunately, these freedoms are not available in all countries. Around the world, countries like China and North Korea control how individuals can speak and act. I am lucky to live in America where the Bill of Rights helps protect my freedoms.

My fellow Americans are also protected through the Due Processes Amendments, which guarantee that we are treated fairly in legal processes. From *Mapp v. Ohio* to *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Bill of Rights have protected citizens like me in countless instances and ensure that we have a voice and can defend ourselves equitably. They help make sure that our government will never abuse its power in pursuing justice.

The Bill of Rights has been a long lasting set of rules in place to ensure the freedom of American citizens. It has taken centuries of hard work to support these rights, and we are continuing to establish and improve them. I am proud to be a part of that effort and to live in the United States where I know that I can live my life safely and that my rights will be protected.