**Patrick Bohan For Congress**



**Restoring Liberty and the Constitution**

**What are our Fundamental Rights and How are they defined?**

Fundamental Rights are God given because we are born with them. Fundamental rights are not political or controversial. Fundamental Rights are rights that everyone unanimously agree we possess. Governments cannot create or improve rights; they can only protect them. Governments cannot take fundamental rights away, except for punishment for violating the rights of another person (i.e., imprisonment for a crime). Fundamental rights do not conflict with other rights, they are not gender specific, and they all have the same intrinsic value. In other words, one right is not any more important than another. In *Washington v. Glucksberg (1997)* the Supreme Court attempted to define fundamental rights by concluding they are deep rooted in American history and culture.

The purpose of government is to represent all citizens equally and not for a majority to impose its will on a minority faction. We are a Constitutional Republic, not a Democracy. A Republic is governed by laws, not men. A Democracy is governed by whatever the majority faction wishes.

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In actuality, American citizens have an infinite number of rights. For example, we can choose to brush our teeth or to take a shower. The Constitution and bill of rights protect many rights such as the right to speech, religion or conscience, self-defense, due process or justice, property, and the ability to enter into contracts. Voting privileges were expanded to all voters with the passage of the *Thirteenth and Nineteenth Amendments*. These are enumerated rights. We also have unenumerated rights protected by the *Ninth Amendment* such as the right to obtain knowledge, to life, to liberty, to created friendships, to raise a family, to marriage, to unrestricted travel, to enjoy lawful recreational activities, to work a lawful profession, to choose, to privacy, the ability to pursue health, to equality, to safety, to profit from our labor, to have representation in government, the capability to pursue happiness, and the antiwelfare right. These are our most important rights, and they can encompass many of our unlimited rights. For instance, the right to choose and health can cover our right to brush our teeth or take a shower. The right to choose and privacy are predicated on two points: the action is moral, and the action is not an emotional one. For example, a person cannot choose to murder and have that choice protected from liability. Furthermore, criminal action done in private cannot be protected actions.

**What is the difference between Liberty and Freedom?**

Liberty is what allows us to pursue our fundamental rights without government restraint or restriction. Freedom is a democracy term. People have the freedom to pursue their rights so long as the government or a majority rule does not take away those rights. That is why our Founders gave us Liberty. Liberty means our rights cannot be taken away by any person or government. If our government is eliminating or mitigating rights, then they are in violation of both the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution which specifically defend liberty.