

A crowd has gathered on a surprisingly cool evening in a park in Chicago, Illinois. They are eagerly awaiting Representative SKra00, who soon appears when his campaign bus arrives. He is greeted by cheering and applause as he ascends to the podium.

“Good evening, everyone! It is so great to see all of you here today. Our campaign has become greatly energized by your work since we first began, so I would like to thank you for that.” **Applause.** Now, today I am here to talk to you about your rights. Our founding fathers created a little document called the Bill of Rights which aimed to protect you, the citizens of these great United States, from the government. That’s right, protect ****you**** from the ****government****. Our rights are not granted to us by some all-powerful government, but rather we grant the government the responsibility to protect our God-given rights from threats internal and domestic. Today, I want to talk about two parts of the Bill of Rights specifically, the First and Second Amendments.

“The First Amendment reads as follows: ‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.’ This single sentence is perhaps the most important in the Bill of Rights because of the breadth of protection it offers. Let’s start with the first protection it provides, that of freedom of religion.

“Unfortunately, we live in an increasingly secular society. People are turning away from religion in favor of self-determined meaning, and that is their prerogative. However, this means that they are losing their sense of community. Religions draw people together to accomplish the greater good. Members of religious communities look out for one another, find meaning in collective efforts to improve their community, and create strong social fabrics upon which society ought to be based. When these communities dissipate, people look elsewhere for the solutions to tears in that social fabric. They turn toward the government to solve the problems in the problems in their communities.” **Booing.**

“Take for instance the Masterpiece Bake Shop case that was decided recently. A religious person who has no qualms about homosexual people refused to bake a cake for a form of marriage he does not support. This was not an act of hate. It was an act of religion. And instead of resolving this social problem within the community, it was made an issue of government. Even in business ventures, the Constitution protects people from governmental infringement of their religious freedom, and in Congress I will work to further protect the religious beliefs, or even lack thereof, of individuals from the government on all levels.” **Applause.**

“Now, in a similar vein, we must ask the question as to why the federal government is even in the business of marriage. Marriage is a religious institution, not just some government contract that gets you tax breaks. The federal government is not a church, and should therefore not decide what constitutes a marriage. If states are going to issue marriage licenses, then the federal government should accept whatever the states issue, including those for homosexual marriages.” **Applause.**

“Another big portion of the First Amendment is the right to free speech. This isn’t some loose, vague phrase. It protects your right to say nearly anything you want to say. If you want to swear, you can do that. If you want to criticize the government, you can do that. All you cannot do is cause imminent danger to another person. Yet, somehow, this fundamental right has come under attack from my opponents. They have an infatuation with changing what is or isn’t acceptable to say, and then making the government enforce their arbitrary, and ungrammatical, changes. I will not stand for this. In Congress, I will continue to block all attempts by those on the other side of the aisle from restricting your right to speak freely, whether that is vocally or through donations to political campaigns.” **Applause**

“The final topic I wish to discuss is the Second Amendment. This is especially relevant here in Chicago, which has some of the strictest gun laws in the state and the country. Chicago is plagued by gun violence, which is a real tragedy. Yet, when politicians have looked to remedy this problem, they look at the tool that was used, and not the people who commit the crimes and their incentives. They therefore ban guns of various styles and issue various restrictions, all of which are unconstitutional.” **Booing.** As your Representative, I will continue to fight against any restrictions on your right to protect yourself and your family. Your lives are important and valuable, and you should be able to defend them using any means necessary. **Cheering.**

“They ignore the situations in which these acts of gun violence take place. They ignore the broken communities and families, the gang-based status quo, and lack of economic mobility. They ignore the fact that many of the guns used to commit the terrible crimes you see everyday are already ‘illegal.’ That is why I have been advocating for the greater role of the community. We clearly cannot rely upon the government to protect us from the dangers in our cities and neighborhoods. We instead need to devolve power to the hands of the people and their local communities, strengthening their communal relationships and sewing together the societal fabric. That is why I argue and push for local solutions to education, such as through voucher programs, to the drug and opioid epidemics, and to marriage. I want ****smaller government, bigger communities.**** Please, make a difference in this election, and vote SKra00 for House of Representatives. God bless you, God bless America, and have a good night.”

Cheering and applause erupt as the Representative leaves the stage and prepares to depart for his next campaign stop.