



Speakers' Bureau

Sacramento Chapter

Americans United for Separation of Church and State

*“Congress shall
make no law
respecting
an establishment
of religion, or
prohibiting the free
exercise thereof....”*

These first words of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution establish freedom of conscience for all Americans. In 1802 Thomas Jefferson termed this "a wall of separation between church and state."

The Sacramento Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State provides knowledgeable and experienced speakers on several religious liberty topics. Contact us to schedule a speaker for your group.

Speakers' Bureau
Sacramento Chapter, Americans United
P.O. Box 279591
Sacramento, CA 95826

president@au-sac.org
916-369-1370 (24 hr.)

Americans United provides literature on religious liberty topics, including a congregational study guide, *Faith and Freedom: Church-State Separation in Our Time*. See the national website, www.au.org

For information on local activities, visit our chapter website, www.au-sac.org

Issues of
Religion and
Government

History of
Religious
Liberty

Speakers' Bureau Presentations

What Ever Happened to the Wall of Separation?

Faith-based initiatives, vouchers, school prayer, limits on medical research/procedures, faith-based regulations in government departments, and increasing religious references by government officials are some of the issues facing this nation. Will we lose our religious liberty?

Court Decision on Church-State Issues

Major church-state court decisions over the past sixty years concern religion in the public schools and in the workplace, vouchers, public prayers, religious displays on public property, and the Pledge of Allegiance. Culture wars continue as Americans wrestle with the role of religion in public life.

Charitable Choice/Faith-Based Programs

To what extent can government fund religion? Learn about Charitable Choice, federal and California faith-based initiatives, and legislative/executive orders that grant government funds to religious institutions for a variety of programs.

Newton's Noggin: Tracing a "Wall of Separation" between Religion and Science

Many consider Newton to have been one the most powerful *scientific* thinkers of all the ages. Others recognize that he was a strongly *religious* figure. How is it that one person is both? This presentation illustrates clearly the distinctions in scientific and religious thinking, connecting both "ways of understanding" to individuals and the institutions in our modern times.

Early American Origins of Church-State Separation

In contrast to what many voices at present claim, longstanding and well-known historical evidence from the colonial and revolutionary periods of American history indicate that the roots of church-state separation are deep and enduring in American culture and history.

Roger Williams: Freedom's Forgotten Hero

A portion of the video *Roger Williams: Freedom's Forgotten Hero* is viewed to understand the life, times and beliefs of the man who founded the colony of Rhode Island where a "hedge or wall of separation was placed between the garden of the church and the wilderness of the world." The producers discuss his contributions to liberty of conscience.

The Virginia Statute to Establish Religious Freedom

The story of how Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, allied with two Baptist ministers, disestablished the Anglican Church in Virginia. Jefferson describes this ten year struggle, which began just weeks after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, as the hardest political battle of his life. It is significant that he also regards the passage of this statute as one of his three greatest achievements.

Letter To the Danbury Baptists: A Casual Statement? Or a Bold Statement of Public Policy?

In recent years there have been many attempts to trivialize Jefferson's letter to the Danbury Baptists. This presentation examines the circumstances surrounding the letter and the careful thought Jefferson put into the drafting of this letter document.

Religion and the Public Schools

Proselytizing, praying, the pledge of allegiance, religious clubs, celebrating, studying about religion—what is the role of the public school regarding these activities? How do the free exercise rights of students and the no establishment responsibilities of school personnel intersect?

***E Pluribus Unum?* — New Diversity, Public Schools, and the Future of American Democracy**

The U.S. is the most religiously diverse nation in the world. It is both a secular republic and a place where religions flourish as nowhere else. How does this play out in the public realm, and particularly in our public schools? After all, it is to the schools we must look to prepare the citizens who will retain the character of our government and carry forward the best of our nation's ideals.

Religion in the California Curriculum

What is included about religion in the California curriculum, and at what grade levels? What training do educators have to fulfill the requirements of this curriculum, and what materials are used in the classroom? History-social science, art, music, literature and sex education have religious content/impact. What about science?

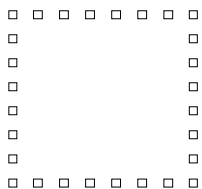
Religion and
Public
Education

Americans United – Sacramento Chapter

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE



Americans United for Separation of Church and State proudly supports and defends the right of citizens to choose and live according to their own convictions, whether religious or non-religious. It traces that basic freedom to a tradition founded by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Roger Williams, and enshrined in the First Amendment. It venerates the principle that religion is too important to be entrusted to government and encourages pluralism, tolerance, and a public life in which we the people interact on the basis of equal worth and mutual respect. Thus, Americans United considers separation of church and state a positive force in American society—a principle that encourages full participation among all people, burdens no one for following their conscience, and has encouraged a flowering of religious variety and vitality unequalled in today's world.



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