

Congressman Dick Arme
301 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4326

Mr. Arme,

I want to commend you wholeheartedly for your efforts in removing the TIPS program from the Homeland Security Act. In the news article I read, Richard Diamond attributed these sentiments to you, "He felt the programs were not consistent with free society."

I cannot express my gratitude that legislators such as yourself stood up against the administration on constitutional grounds. As a Republican, I'm sure that the decision was a little more difficult for you. The current administration has been playing fast and loose with the Constitution, and many Americans who have actually studied history do not want our government to repeat its mistakes and create a modern era of McCarthyism.

Either way, I am happy. As an independent, I support political candidates based on their actions, not their political affiliations. If I ever have standing to vote for you, be assured that you can count on a vote from this atheist. Regardless, you will be receiving some financial support from me on your next re-election campaign.

It bears repeating: protect the U.S. Constitution! The Bill of Rights is the closest thing to a sacred document that is shared by **all** Americans, and too many "patriotic Americans" are quick to pick and choose which rights they want to enforce and which rights they want to subvert.

Thanks again,

Ray Kerby
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Allen, TX 75002

p.s. I know that it may be too ingrained in our society already, but please consider this possible solution to the issue regarding the Pledge of Allegiance and the latest insertion of "Under God" in 1954.

This country's Declaration of Independence, penned by Thomas Jefferson, contains a phrase that is far more meaningful and inspirational than the existing Pledge, and it also mentions a deity without being unconstitutional! That should satisfy the majority of the voters that insist on having a reference to God in the pledge. It would be a wonderful and patriotic replacement for the rote pledge written by socialist Francis Bellamy over 100 years later. In addition, it is approximately the same length as the current pledge.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness"