



Religious Liberty

Principle

The right of conscience, and the right to practice faith according to personal beliefs is sacred and should not be infringed on or denied.

Virginia History

For over three decades, the Judeo-Christian heritage of our nation and our Commonwealth has been under constant assault. The “separation of church and state” message of the media, politicians, and special interest groups, and the actions of activist judges have widdled away at one of our most precious liberties—the right to practice our faith in public.



Public Attacks

1. In Norfolk, Virginia, a high school senior was denied the privilege of singing at her graduation ceremony because the song she chose to sing, “The Prayer” by Celine Dion, mentioned “God.”¹
2. A student at a public high school in Manassas, Virginia was denied the right to wear a pro-life t-shirt because the school considered it “religious expression.”²
3. In a Henrico County public middle school, a Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter was prevented from gathering during a period allotted for club meetings because of its status as a “religious club”.³

Policy Issues in Virginia

Religious Liberty Amendment—despite the clear language of Virginia’s founders, a Constitutional Amendment clearly protecting the right of public acts of faith has become necessary.

Teaching History—Virginia is the home of religious liberty in our nation. Efforts to educate Americans on our history, funded by taxpayer dollars, must be honest and accurate and should clearly show our rich Judeo-Christian heritage.

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¹Available at: http://www.rutherford.org/articles_db/legal_features.asp?article_id=46

²Available at: <http://news.crossmap.com/story/virginia-school-backs-down-allows-student-to-wear-clothing-expressing-her-pro-life-views/1232.htm>