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Freedom of Speech

I'm sure most of the citizens of our country have noticed the attacks to our freedom of speech over the years and how they continue to escalate to higher levels. Just recently, in October 2009, a sitting U.S. Senator asked for a gag order to be placed on insurance companies who were providing information to their clients on pending health care legislation. It was issued and all insurance companies were to abide by the ruling and stop contacting their customers about how the proposed legislation would affect their coverage. Where will this type of behavior by our federal government lead us? Will we ever regain our rights if we look the other way now and not speak up even louder?

There are even more heinous crimes being perpetrated upon on our nation in this same vain with further attacks being planned by our own government. There are plans to further regulate talk radio, which is predominately Conservative in nature. By taxing stations more and outlawing certain formats of shows that may incite citizens to react strongly against the government we will lose more of our first amendment rights. Current campaign finance laws prohibit certain groups and political action committees from influencing an election in the days immediately preceding an election. But don't these PACs represent citizens, businesses and community organizations around our country? Why shouldn't the message of all citizens be allowed to be heard regardless of what day the election is? The Patriot Act has also granted broad powers to our government to monitor our communications with one another in all available formats. It is our own tax dollars that are being used to improve the government's methods and technology to do this. In my mind, freedom of speech in private conversations should actually be private!

When we can no longer express ourselves freely without being categorized as being a homegrown terrorist, then how can we ever hope to bring about the changes to save our country? How long will it be before new laws criminalize these free speech actions in the name of public safety and fighting terrorism? We are Americans, and as such, we have the latitude to say what's on our minds, assemble peaceably and share ideas with our fellow citizens. If this changes, then we will have lost all control of our country. We will then no longer be able to organize for common purposes to influence other voters or for that matter our own elected government.

We need to take control of our elected officials before it is too late and demand they support our constitutional rights; rights granted to us by our creator and to which we are entitled for simply being made in his image. Continue to speak freely and do not cower under the threats, gag orders and bad boy lists that are being made. We cannot all be silenced if none of us shut up in the first place. Let's not allow a starting place for further infringement on our rights to free speech. Speak up and I promise I will too as your next U.S. Senator.

Eric Deaton