



THE DEFENDER

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The Founding Fathers on Legislative Tyranny



The State Income Tax is by Definition - Legislative Tyranny

The Founding Fathers viewed legislative tyranny as one of the gravest threats to a free republic. Having lived under a Parliament that claimed unlimited authority over the colonies, they understood that tyranny did not arise only from kings—it could also emerge from elected bodies that exceeded their proper bounds. Their writings reveal a consistent warning: when the legislative branch accumulates power beyond its constitutional limits, liberty is endangered.

James Madison, often called the “Father of the Constitution,” issued the most explicit warning. In Federalist No. 47, he wrote that “the accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands... may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.”

Madison feared that even representative assemblies could become oppressive if not restrained by constitutional checks and balances. In Federalist No. 48, he emphasized that “power is of an encroaching nature and... ought to be effectually restrained from passing the limits assigned to it.”

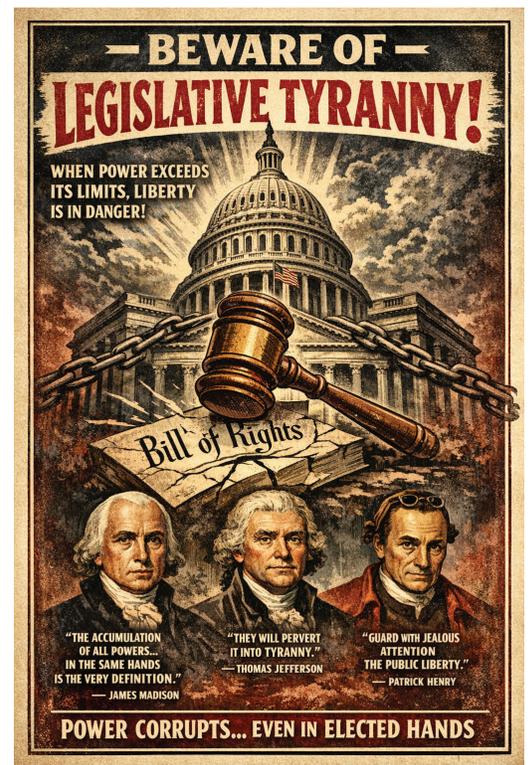
Thomas Jefferson likewise warned that even well intentioned lawmakers could slowly pervert liberty. He observed that “even under the best forms of government those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny.” Jefferson believed that legislative overreach—especially when justified as serving the public good—posed a subtle but persistent danger.

Patrick Henry, a fierce defender of individual liberty, cautioned citizens to “guard with jealous attention the public liberty” and to “suspect everyone who approaches that jewel.” His warning applied not only to monarchs but to any governing body that might claim authority beyond what the people had granted.

Together, these perspectives reveal a shared conviction: legislative bodies are not immune to the corrupting tendencies of power. The Founders designed the Constitution—its separation of powers, enumerated authorities, and checks and balances—precisely to prevent legislative dominance.

Their warnings remain a timeless reminder that liberty requires constant vigilance, especially against the slow, incremental expansion of legislative power.

God Bless,
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2026 LINCOLN DAY SPEECH SPOTLIGHT



Key Takeaways from My Winning Speech

by Haley Barkman

In March, I was challenged to deliver a three-minute speech on “Freedom’s Framework,” the foundation of American law and policy. The topic centered on the fundamental principle of consent of the governed.

I was delighted and honored to be selected to present my speech at the Spokane Republican Party’s 2026 Lincoln Day Speech Gala.

In my research leading up to the event, I found three essential things I wanted the audience to remember if they took nothing else from my speech:

1. The Epidemic of Forgetting

Nearly one-third of Americans now say they would accept a leader who doesn’t answer to Congress or elections (the dictionary definition of a dictator). This is the most alarming symptom of an epidemic that has been gathering speed for three generations. Americans have forgotten the concept of consent of the governed and how it changed the world.

2. The Forgotten Foundation

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. This revolutionary idea justified American independence and has historically protected us from tyranny, genocide, and starvation. Without it, nations drift like an untethered, unpiloted ship. And neither ship nor nation will ever drift into a good thing.

3. The Great Remind

The cure is a deliberate “Great Reminding” of our founding principles. Ronald Reagan warned in 1981 that government had grown beyond the consent of the governed. In 2026, that warning rings true now more than ever.

If you think you can’t do anything about this, you’re wrong. Consent of the governed begins at the individual level. My generation knows we’re being lied to about faith, family, and freedom. We see our nation unraveling because of those lies and we’re craving the truth. So I ask you, will you remind us? And will you let yourself be reminded?



McKenzie, Robert Tracy. *We the Fallen People : The Founders and the Future of American Democracy*, InterVarsity Press, 2021.

Samples, John. *The Struggle to Limit Government : A Modern Political History*, Cato Institute, 2010.



HALEY TALKS TRUTH

We are pleased to announce 2026 Lincoln Day Speech Champion Haley Barkman is now a contributor to the monthly Defender Newsletter. Haley will write a series of short essays on Faith, Family and Freedom topics young people are discussing and contemplating.



Marriage minus Commitment equals Cohabitation

By Haley Barkman

“You are not!” my friend shouted when I showed her my engagement ring. “I can’t believe you got engaged before me!”

She had a point. I had been dating Kaleb for a little over a year. She had been living with her boyfriend for three. Outside my Christian circle, (and sometimes inside it), people all reacted the same way. Even the woman doing my nails the day before my wedding told me to reconsider. She had lived with her boyfriend for ten years and still was not sure about marriage.

Many people view cohabitation as a natural step before engagement, while it is far better to marry the person you intend to spend your life with than to stall in something that

imitates commitment without requiring it. Most objections fall into three categories, which I will respond to one by one.

“Cohabitation is less expensive than marriage.”

Sometimes. But it is also far more unstable. When a dating relationship ends, shared leases, furniture, and bills turn into immediate problems. I watched a couple in my building break up and scramble for housing within days. What looked cheaper became costly overnight.

“Marriage is a societal construct.”

Even if that were true, look at the construct. Two people make a public promise to one another in front of witnesses. If that feels too binding, then do you really want to waste time living with that person?

“We’re not ready to get married.”

Then living together makes even less sense. Sharing a home is not a trial version of commitment. It is a form of it, just without the clarity or accountability.

Cohabitation promises flexibility, keeping exits open. Marriage demands conviction and is meant to last. If your goal is lifelong love, only one of those paths requires you to act like you mean it. The other allows you to pretend you love your significant other, but gives you a convenient way out when things get hard.



LIBERTY'S SENTINEL



“In the beginning of a change the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot.” [Mark Twain]

Washington State’s Millionaire’s Tax is The Road to Serfdom A Timeless Warning from Friedrich Hayek

Friedrich Hayek’s *The Road to Serfdom* (1944) warns that centralized economic planning—even when well-intentioned—inevitably leads to authoritarianism. Written during World War II, Hayek argued that managing an economy from the top down erodes liberty and democratic accountability.

His central thesis is that economic freedom and political freedom are inseparable. When governments control production, wages, or prices, they must also wield political power to enforce compliance. This concentration of authority undermines individual choice and the rule of law.

Hayek emphasized that under planning, laws become tools for achieving specific outcomes rather than impartial rules. This shift fosters arbitrary governance, favoritism, and discrimination—hallmarks of despotism. He also challenged the notion of “social justice” through collectivist planning, arguing that diverse individual values make it impossible for any central authority to define fairness without suppressing dissent. Equality of outcome, he warned, requires coercion.

Another key insight is that planning distorts political incentives, attracting leaders who seek power over liberty. Centralized systems reward those who use propaganda and coercion to achieve their goals.

Hayek’s See I Told You So Moment

Modern politics reflects Hayek’s fears. Expanding regulations, industrial policy, speech controls, and emergency powers show how governments, once tasked with managing outcomes, must not only expand authority to enforce them but also confiscate wealth to pay for the expansion.

Debates over misinformation, Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) mandates, pandemic restrictions, and bureaucratic rule-making mirror Hayek’s concern: planners, not elected representatives, increasingly wield real power. The elected representatives are there to enable the planners.

Hayek’s warning is structural, not partisan: the more a government promises guaranteed outcomes, the more power it must claim—and the less freedom citizens retain. His message remains a vital reminder that liberty is lost not in a single moment, but through gradual, well-meaning steps down the road he cautioned us against.



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LINCOLN DAY VIP RECEPTION



LINCOLN DAY MAIN EVENT



HLW LIFE & LOVE EVENTS



Culture of Life & Love™
SUMMIT

Culture of Life & Love Summit™

You are warmly invited to attend the **Culture of Life & Love Summit™**, taking place Friday, June 26 through Saturday, June 27 at the **HAPO Center in Pasco, Washington (6600 Burden Blvd)**.

This powerful weekend will bring together individuals passionate about building a culture that cherishes every human life, offering opportunities for learning, connection, and meaningful impact. Tickets

for the event can be purchased through Eventbrite, and attendees are encouraged to register using the website link at www.HLWConnects.Life.

A featured highlight of the summit is the **Pro-Life Oratory Contest**, where students, between the ages of 16-18, will have the opportunity to use their voices to advocate for life and compete for cash prizes of up to **\$1,000**. Those interested in participating should contact Jeryl Reinbolt by **May 1** to receive the necessary information and entry materials.

In addition, HLW Life & Love Network™ has launched the **Breaking Barriers Statewide Diaper Drive**, running from March 2026 through March 2027. This initiative aims to provide 500 cases of diapers to facilities across Washington that serve mothers and families. Thanks to early support, nearly 10,000 diapers—equivalent to 63 cases—have already been collected.

With a **\$50 donation**, one case of 144 diapers can be provided, offering a month's supply for a family in need. HLW is partnering with EveryLife, one of the nation's only pro-life diaper companies, to make this possible.

Human Life of Washington's mission is to inform and inspire the public about life-affirming options, fostering a culture that cherishes every individual, regardless of age or circumstance.

For more information, registration, or questions, please visit <https://humanlifewa.org/events/> or contact Jeryl Reinbolt directly at jeryl@humanlifewa.org. We look forward to you joining us at one of our events!



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