

[Life](#) | [Property](#) | [Self Defense](#) | [Religion & Speech](#)

Constitutional liberties are the foundation of American freedom. The Founders of these United States valued liberty, founded in the rule of law, so much that they were willing to sacrifice everything to secure it for future generations. Throughout America's history, the U.S. Constitution's protection of these liberties has prevented and corrected abuses by the government.

Congressman Akin takes his oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America seriously. As your representative, he believes every vote should be measured against Constitution principles and he is committed to advancing them at every opportunity.

Life

The right to life was not only recognized in the Declaration of Independence but also guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment. "No person," the Fifth Amendment states, "shall be deprived...of life." This idea is built from the Declaration's assertion that life is a "certain unalienable right."

Congressman Akin is committed to compassionate, life-affirming public policy. He believes that no life should be deliberately ended without due process of law. The National Right to Life Organization has recognized Mr. Akin's 100 percent pro-life voting record. He strongly opposes using taxpayer funds to promote or pay for abortion or euthanasia.

Property Rights

Western legal tradition has long recognized that protection of private property ownership is essential to prosperity. Among the indignities enumerated by the colonists was the practice of housing the king's soldiers in private homes – without their owner's permission. To secure the private property rights of the people, the 5th Amendment states that no person may be deprived of their property without due process of law, and that private property not "be taken for public

use, without just compensation.”

Congressman Akin believes that the unjust taking of private property – whether through confiscatory taxation or using the power of government to transfer property from one private entity to another – is a threat to the foundations of our system of government. Mr. Akin supports legislation prohibiting the abuse of the government’s eminent domain power.

Self Defense

“The right of the people to bear arms shall not be infringed.” Although much debated, these words secure the right of all Americans to protect their lives, property and common liberties.

Congressman Akin believes that without the right to bear arms, other inalienable rights are indefensible. He has consistently opposed infringement of citizen’s Second Amendment liberties and fought to ensure right to carry reciprocity as well as the freedom to carry on public federal lands.

Freedom of Religion & Speech

The First Amendment is an explicit prohibition on Congressional action: *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech.”*

Despite mythical claims that this language was meant to establish a secular public square, it remains an explicit protection of the right to speak freely of one’s beliefs and freely exercise religious liberty. Congressman Akin has consistently opposed infringement of these liberties, whether in the form of discriminatory federal legislation or laws penalizing politically incorrect speech.

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