

The Sixth Amendment

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Portions of the 6th Amendment included something that was unheard of prior to the introduction of this amendment by James Madison. Prior to this right being included in the 6th Amendment, an accused person in many cases could not testify on their own behalf. They reasoned that in many crimes the testimony of the accused would be biased and as such would be unreliable.

The 6th Amendment also allows the accused to call forth witnesses on their behalf and it allows them to know the crime they are being charged with as well as the right to a trial by jury in the jurisdiction in which the crime was to have been committed. When the US Constitution was being deliberated on in the VA legislature, Patrick Henry, who was against the Constitution as written, complained that the Constitution neglected to include the right to a trial by jury, a right that all British subjects had known for hundreds of years. The British subject also had another form of protection that by some accounts goes back to the 12th or 13th century and it was known as the Writ of Habeas Corpus. The Writ of Habeas Corpus states that a person that is placed under arrest be taken before a judge or into court, and the custodian of the prisoner must present evidence that there is lawful authority to detain the prisoner.

We now move forward 220 years, to a time where the Congress includes a provision under Section 1021 of the NDAA, where foreign nationals who are **alleged** to have committed or merely “**suspected**” of sympathizing with or providing any level of support to groups the U.S. designates as terrorist organization or an affiliate or associated force may be imprisoned without charge or trial “until the end of hostilities.” As if that wasn't enough, we now move forward to 2013, where President Obama signs the newest installment in which among other things allows the indefinite detention of American citizens without giving them their due process of law.

Our early founders recognized how important these rights were, which is why they included it in what we now commonly refer to as our Bill of Rights. Our elected representatives over the last several decades have eroded these rights to the point where these rights are almost non-existent. Is this the America that you love? Is this the type of justice system that you were taught in school as being the best in the world?

Our government; at all levels, are passing laws, ordinances and regulations that are decimating our unalienable rights and the protections that were placed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights to maintain our liberties from government tyranny. It's time we stopped allowing them to step on our rights. It's time we elect principled people to represent us in government. If we can't find these people then WE need to be the principled lover of liberty that campaigns to protect that liberty for our posterity.

The Constitution Party of Ohio has found a few principled people that are campaigning now to be that protector of liberty; but we need more. Will you be the one? Will you help us find them? Will you help us get them elected? It's time! If not now, when? If not you, Who?