

### **Citizens Must Honor, Respect and Applaud the First Amendment**

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; ...”

Americans should be grateful that freedom of religion is protected by the US Constitution and that the government is prohibited from establishing religion.

In some nations, persons are subject to persecution and even death by practicing a religion not authorized by the government. Freedom of religion is a fundamental right to be cherished by all believers and non-believers as well.

Americans should likewise be grateful that government is prohibited from establishing religion. Government and religion have separate roles.

History has shown that entanglement of religion and government has harmful effects for both institutions. “Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s and unto God that which is His.”

Some religious folks demand government funding for their religious schools, which continues to create controversy. Thirty-eight states have constitutional amendments aimed at prohibiting government funding of religious schools.

EdChoice vouchers used in private religious schools entangle government and religion. History of this type of entanglement informs us that the EdChoice voucher scheme must be stopped in its tracks. Government support for private voucher schools paves the way for additional church and state entanglements.