

Albert Einstein said,

“Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.”

Believing this principle to be true, and believing that Providence has brought us together for such a time as this, consider with me for a few minutes a **“Patriot Dream.”**

It is a dream about America’s unique beauty! — not just of **“spacious skies and amber waves of grain,”** but of a **“thoroughfare for freedom,”** of **“self-control”** and of **“liberty in law.”** It is a “dream that sees beyond the years” of “alabaster cities” that “gleam Undimmed by human tears!” It is a dream about America the Beautiful.

It is a dream of individual freedom and responsibility, of voluntary covenantal relationships of work and worship, of communion and prosperity.

Einstein's statement saying “*everything that is really great and inspiring*” points us to the fundamental human element that has made our nation and Texas great! — the individual and his work.

But it is more than that — **it is the free man and woman**, living, working, worshiping and pursuing happiness, **that God has blessed**. Individual freedom, not government control, has led to America's success. *Freedom, not force, made us exceptional.*

However, it seems for decades, perhaps a century now, we have focused less and less on this humble yet glorious and dominant

theme of the “patriot dream.” We have neglected individual freedom and responsibility and idolized government force. Like Israel of old, we have become willing slaves of force.

But it is not just the force of one king, nor even of a few oligarchs, but the force of an overwhelming bureaucracy — with “a multitude of New Offices” and “swarms of Officers” that “harass [us], and eat out [our] substance.” We are waking from a nightmare worse than the Empire of King George — a nightmare that the French student of the American system, De Tocqueville, predicted — a despotism that is “more extensive and more mild.” One that “degrade[s] men without tormenting them.” We are led about as if we were minors by a host of bureaucratic parents whom we ourselves authorized.

But thankfully, many are learning that civil government's minions are a poor substitute for free men and women working. Licensing and regulation is stifling innovation and burdening responsible labor, and arousing discontent, envy and strife. It is causing the beauty of America to wane.

There is a place for force, but it is limited. A wise man said that ***“Government is not reason; . . . it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.”***

Civil power is not suited for production or redemption, but only justice — protecting life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our forefathers saw it as their duty, and so should we, **to protect liberty not just from the attacks of foreign enemies and from criminals here at home, BUT FROM OUR OWN**

GOVERNMENT. That is why we have a constitution — not to restrain the people, but to restrain the government.

But what makes democratic despotism so difficult to overcome is that it is established by gradual consent of the governed and for their good. We complain about licensing and regulation, but because it gives an advantage against competition we support it. Because it frees us from responsibility even if we still harm our neighbor, we think it is a good thing.

But having brought this democratic despotism on ourselves, with the blessing of Providence, we can end it — if we humble ourselves, and embrace the responsibility (and risk) of being free men and women once again. **It is time** to cease being led about as children and to stand on our own as adult citizens. If we do this as free men

and women and as a free and sovereign state, I believe we have a bright future.

But we have to say NO to Nanny Big Government. We must peacefully withhold consent from despotic acts and offices.

Most of you are aware of the battle which is being fought against the immoral and unconstitutional actions of the Transportation Security Administration (or TSA). Thanks to the support of honor and freedom loving Texans and Americans, we succeeded in shining the 'light of right' upon their actions.

I introduced a bill, which came to be known as the TSA/Anti-Groping Bill. It sought to draw a reasonable line for screening searches. Simply put, without reasonable cause none of us should have to be groped in our most private areas as a condition of travel.

Having unanimously passed the Texas House, the bill failed in the final hours of the legislative session when the resolve of state legislators was crushed by the threats and intimidation of Department of Justice officials.

It's time for principled, bold leadership here in Texas to stop these egregious acts that in any other context would be considered sexual assault and violations of the 4th Amendment.

If our forefathers had allowed their determination to end at the Alamo or Goliad, we would never have seen the victory at San Jacinto that led to our freedom.

Our God endowed each and every human being with the ability to think, reason, and make choices. The more government invades our

lives, the less we are able to exercise our God given responsibilities and rights.

Government has a proper role but it must be limited, otherwise it becomes destructive like wildfire. Think of the effort that was expended to battle the wildfires here in Texas this past summer.

The *same kind of ardent determination is needed to reign in our government* — to surround it, to contain it, to put it under control. It is our responsibility to make sure that government is a *servant* to society instead of its *master*!

Another area where force is replacing freedom wholesale is healthcare. The takeover of the healthcare industry is not limited to the federal government. States are complicit in their consent as well. Both parties have promoted the growth of

government healthcare. Republicans are now doing what Democrats wish they could have done a couple years ago.

It is not enough to be a conservative and merely put the brakes on progressivism. We must respect and protect individual freedom and responsibility. Our bodies and our health are individual responsibilities, not the government's.

As a Christian, I believe it is incumbent upon me to visit the widows and orphans in their distress. I would that all men and women love one another and care for one another, especially those who are less fortunate.

However, that does not mean that we should use governmental force to care for our neighbors! There can be no real charity or love when it is forced. And there can be no respect when there is no

responsibility. When one group of people is able to live at the involuntary expense of another, there can be no mutual love and respect — there will only be distrust and animosity.

Such will be the case concerning healthcare if the “socially unenlightened” in Washington have their way. They will take by violence from some, and give to others. Then they will limit what is given to all because they will have destroyed the brilliance and beauty of the free market.

It is called a “free market” because free individuals choose to do business with one another in order to satisfy their respective desires.

As the famous French philosopher Frederic Bastiat explained, ***“Socialism . . . confuses the distinction between***

government and society. As a result of this, every time we object to a thing being done by government, the socialists conclude that we object to its being done at all.”

Friends and fellow soldiers for liberty, we need to educate the world around us concerning what it means to ‘love one another.’ We love one another by respecting one another, even when we disagree. It means reasoning with one another instead of using threats and violence to coerce.

Do you love freedom? Then love your neighbor’s freedom. Do you wish to see the poor cared for? Then care for them, and ***persuade*** others to do the same.

If we do these things we will build a society that has a new-found respect for our Constitution and a new-found private use for the

billions of tax dollars that are being squandered away by state and federal governments.

Let me conclude with a question? **Where are the statesmen of our age?** Where are the consistent voices of reason and liberty?

I fear many politicians are for sale, either for money or for power — and there is much of both being thrown about. Mark Twain said that **the only native criminal class is congress.** From what I have seen, I fear he is right. Who else can steal and get away with it by calling it “a program” or “a development” for this or that?

There is good reason for us to be concerned. The TEA Party arose because of the decades of irresponsibility by those claiming to be “conservative.” The Republican Party has been complicit in growing the government and forsaking the Constitution.

The TEA Party is here to tell politicians that they do not have our votes simply because they have an “R” next to their name. If you want our support, you must support the Constitution in word ***and deed!***

In a time such as ours, when there is so little understanding of freedom, so few statesmen, and so much unwanted compromise, there is much for us to do.

We should seek to educate ourselves and our families by studying the Constitution and reading the classic literature of liberty. We must realize who we are. God made us to be free! We must relinquish our idolatrous devotion to force and realize the sword is a poor tool for production or healing. We must do more than conserve, we must prize, pursue, and preserve liberty.

And if we are to be effective in promoting freedom abroad, we cannot abandon it here at home. Freedom cannot be forced upon people. They must seek it and learn to love it despite its risks.

Let us seek out and support statesmen who understand the patriot dream and who will not sell the principles of liberty for convenience, votes, or cave in out of cowardice.

Let us not be deceived by detractors in the media; there are many who wish to stop our march towards freedom. They slander those who are principled, self-controlled and don't worship at the idol of force. They undermine our love of liberty through fear mongering.

May God help us all to realize more and more the Patriot Dream — to prize and pursue liberty until we possess it and preserve it by limiting civil power to its proper role.

“Where liberty dwells, there is our country!”