



Letter to the Editor: Anonymous speech needed, has history

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USA Today

Published August 24, 2011

There are many reasons other than "corrupt" ones that a donor to an independent nonprofit organization might want to remain anonymous ("Our view: Presidential race not the place for secret donors"). Citizens United, the 2010 ruling that famously led President Obama to wag a disapproving finger at the Supreme Court during his State of the Union address, held that businesses have a right to engage in political campaigning.

For example, wealthy libertarians Charles and David Koch are essentially being stalked by enraged activists who cannot tolerate the idea of someone donating to organizations supporting free markets and limited government.

Donors to the controversial Prop 8 campaign in California have received death threats, lost their jobs and been terrorized with fake anthrax attacks. Opponents of a San Francisco ballot measure affecting public pensions went to former house speaker Nancy Pelosi to demand she rescind government contracts held by supporters of the measure.

Anonymous speech has an important tradition in America, including the unnamed authors of the Federalist Papers at the time the Constitution was ratified. Those disturbed by anonymous speech have a simple remedy - don't listen to it, or give it any credibility.

