Governments all over the globe have great responsibilities and power. Not only does a government protect its citizens and their freedoms, but it also sacrifices some rights for the people’s welfare, particularly when crises occur and new issues arise. However, certain systems prevent a government from abusing its power, especially in regards to axiomatic freedoms.

First of all, a government protects its citizens as well as their lives. For example, the U.S. Declaration of Independence clearly outlines the people’s rights; the founding fathers also wrote the document to be flexible, allowing various interpretations based upon circumstances. For instance, minorities during the Civil Rights Movements reinterpreted “all men are created equal,” claiming the rights denied them by the government. However, balancing governmental power is more delicate. Our forefathers wisely anticipated power abuse and therefore created the checks and balances system in which each branch of government limits the power of others. With this system the government cannot abuse its power unless the citizens allow it.

Under certain circumstances the government has to sacrifice the freedom of the people in exchange for their safety. For instance, the right of privacy in airport terminals was compromised following the 9/11 attacks to ensure the U.S. citizens’ safety while flying. However, as the threat of terrorism abates, the rights of the individual slowly return, albeit not entirely. So, the welfare of the people trumps their liberties when security is most threatened.

However, no matter the threat, certain axiomatic freedoms should be protected without question. Instilled within the foundation of our government are certain unalienable rights. Among this list is the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion. The freedom of speech, protected by the Bill of Rights, is one right that should never be revoked from the citizen. It is a right that is fundamental to our government because it is essential to democracy that every citizen have a voice. Additionally, all citizens deserve the freedom of religion, regardless of whether a religion is chosen. This right is so fundamental that it, among others, prompted the establishment of this country.

Truly the Founding Fathers could not anticipate all issues that this country would face when establishing our guiding documents. Notably, internet security has emerged as a serious problem. Addressing this issue is difficult by itself. Most people do not want to admit that the issue is partially created by them. Specifically, many people do not understand that personal information should not be stored on the internet. Personal information put on the internet cannot be taken back, and citizens do not take into account that others may misuse their information. Citizens need to be educated on how to keep their personal information safe in cyberspace.

Clearly, maintaining the safety of the citizen is paramount to the success of any government, and as citizens we allow the manipulation of our rights to ensure that safety. Nonetheless, as human beings we expect certain axiomatic rights, those we consider a birthright, to remain uncompromised.