



CHILDREN'S LIBERTY LEAGUE | Launch - March 15, 2022

Speech Transcript for Mr. Yao Xiao

My name is Yao Xiao, first generation immigrant from mainland China, a resident living in Syosset for 10 years. From 1999, beginning the preparation of the Test of English as a foreign language; until 2020, pledging my allegiance to the United States, I spent 20 years to have the same rights as my US born children. It's a long journey achieved by not only personal effort and sacrifice, but also heartwarming help and tolerance from Americans.

Compared with my life in China, I am free to do a lot of things now. I can express my opinions on the internet without worrying about visits from the police. I can also remain silent when facing enquiry from law enforcement. I have the right to bear firearms for self protection. I could be part of the justice system by serving in a jury box. The list could go on and on.

However, the experiences of the past few years are quite eye opening and alarming for me. I feel our long established rights and freedom are chipped away. People are forced to choose between losing their job or taking the job. Elected officials may decide what you have to wear in the name of public health. Opinions different from mainstream narrative may get censored on the internet. Education is becoming a tug of war between schools and parents. A lot of things resemble what I was familiar with in an authoritarian country, some of them are even comparable to the Cultural Revolution between 1966 and 1976 in China.

For most Americans, being protected by Amendments or the U.S. Bill of Rights is like breathing in air, natural and granted. The importance of these rights might not be realized until they are taken away. Personally I just can't take them for granted and pretend everything would be fine, because I knew how bad things could become when governments have unchecked power. Our constitutional rights should not be only inalienable on paper, but also strictly applied to our daily life.

In the end, just like President John F. Kennedy said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing". I won't immigrate to another country, but stay and fight for our Constitutional Rights.