

News From The States

THIS WEEK IN COMMENTARY

Welcome to the best opinion pieces of the week from **News From The States**. Our commentary includes our own journalists from across our extensive network as well as outside voices to bring a wide range of perspectives and ideas. In addition to the sampling below, [you can look through all our commentary here](#).

TOP COMMENTARY OF THE WEEK

A Thanksgiving wish for free speech in Kansas and this nation, no matter our differences

by **Clay Wirestone** | *Kansas Reflector*



Sure, you will give thanks for family, friends and food today. But why not also give thanks for the First Amendment, asks opinion editor Clay Wirestone.
(Getty Images)

As we gather to celebrate family, friends and the overwhelming tiredness that follows turkey feasts, let's give thanks for free expression.

That's right, let's thank our lucky stars for the protections of the [First Amendment](#) to the U.S. Constitution, here in Kansas and everywhere else in our 50 gorgeous states. Without the right to free speech, Kansas Reflector couldn't report the news, let alone publish an occasionally spicy [opinion section](#).

Yet this year, let's be sure to accompany such thanks with a note of caution.

We can only enjoy free speech if we zealously protect it for everyone, not just the folks with whom we agree. I worry that in an increasingly fractured political landscape, those on both the left and right want the other side to simply shut up. If that can't be managed, other approaches — ones that fall afoul of the First Amendment — look appealing.

[Read this commentary](#)

[Studies, class-action suit link hair relaxers to cancer; Black women in Virginia are at risk](#)

by **Samantha Willis** | *Virginia Mercury*

[What moving to Maine and tragedy taught me about gratitude](#)

by **AnnMarie Hilton** | *Maine Morning Star*

[I won the best Thanksgiving prize ever in the fourth grade. Not.](#)

by **Janine L. Weisman** | *Rhode Island Current*

[From anti-trans bills to attacks on education, gerrymandered Ohio lawmakers push more extremist laws](#)

by **Marilou Johaneck** | *Ohio Capital Journal*

[What now? Child care in Kentucky faces a cliff as pandemic-era federal aid has ended](#)

by **Vanessa Gallman** | *Kentucky Lantern*

[Proposed FOIA law would provide needed help for citizens denied access to public records, meetings](#)

by **Sonny Albarado** | *Arkansas Advocate*

[In the U.K. and U.S. alike, the conservative movement is falling apart before our eyes](#)

by **Diane Roberts** | *Florida Phoenix*

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States Newsroom – News From The States

1414 Raleigh Rd #127

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

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