

ARTICLES IN ADDITION TO, AND AMENDMENT OF,  
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA, PROPOSED BY CONGRESS, AND RATI-  
FIED BY THE SEVERAL STATES PURSUANT TO  
THE FIFTH ARTICLE OF THE ORIGINAL CONSTITU-  
TION<sup>1</sup>

### AMENDMENT I.

§ 208. Freedom of religion, of speech, and of peaceable assembly.

Congress shall make no law respecting an es-  
tablishment of religion, or prohib-  
iting the free exercise thereof; or  
abridging the freedom of speech, or  
of the press; or the right of the people peaceably  
to assemble, and to petition the Government for  
a redress of grievances.

### AMENDMENT II.

§ 209. The right to bear arms.

A well regulated Militia being necessary to the  
security of a free State, the right of  
the people to keep and bear arms,  
shall not be infringed.

---

<sup>1</sup>The first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States were proposed to the legislatures of the several States by the First Congress on September 25, 1789 (this date and the date succeeding amendments were proposed is the date of final congressional action—signature by the presiding officer of the Senate—as is shown in the Senate Journals). They were ratified by the following States, on the dates shown, and the notifications by the governors thereof of ratification were communicated by the President to Congress: New Jersey, November 20, 1789; Maryland, December 19, 1789; North Carolina, December 22, 1789; South Carolina, January 19, 1790; New Hampshire, January 25, 1790; Delaware, January 28, 1790; New York, February 27, 1790; Pennsylvania, March 10, 1790; Rhode Island, June 7, 1790; Vermont, November 3, 1791; and Virginia, December 15, 1791. Ratification was completed on December 15, 1791. The amendments were subsequently ratified by Massachusetts, March 2, 1939; Georgia, March 18, 1939; Connecticut, April 19, 1939.