

Issues Brief

Should intelligent design be taught in public school systems in the United States? Many varied opinions exist for this question. Under the First Amendment of The U.S. Constitution, it reads:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...”

While the First Amendment gives the individual the right to freedom of religion, this particular clause above restricts Congress from imposing a religious right into law. The importance of this clause is made clear by the fact that it is in the First Amendment. Our founding fathers foresaw that a corruption of power could impose a religious ideal explicitly on people and thought it important enough to restrict government from doing so.

Another controversy is whether intelligent design is only a ploy used by the religious right to impose certain beliefs. John F. Haught, a professor at Georgetown University says that intelligent design “essentially a religious proposition.” Faced with the lack of supporting scientific evidence, it seems that Professor Haught is correct.