

- The Court's decision today is at odds not only with the Constitution, but with the principles upon which our Nation was built.
- Since well before 1787, liberty has been understood as freedom from government action, not entitlement to government benefits.
- The Framers created our Constitution to preserve that understanding of liberty.
- Yet the majority invokes our Constitution in the name of a "liberty" that the Framers would not have recognized, to the detriment of the liberty they sought to protect.
- Along the way, it rejects the idea—captured in our Declaration of Independence—that human dignity is innate and suggests instead that it comes from the Government.
- This distortion of our Constitution not only ignores the text, it inverts the relationship between the individual and the state in our Republic.
- I cannot agree with it.
—Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, dissenting in *Obergefell*—