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WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL DISCOURSE AND FREE SPEECH?

Sheila Kennedy once said, “We cannot find common problems without finding common ground.” Never has this quote been more important than today, as civil discourse becomes less and less common.

I’ve seen firsthand the value of free speech time and time again, both on a personal level and on a national level. I currently serve as an ASUA senator for the University of Arizona, and one of our proudest achievements was that we were able to fight to keep the Sunlink free and accessible for all students this semester. However, this

legislators alike being willing to engage with us in civil

us spread our message and make our case. However, positive discourse like this has become increasingly rare. One of the primary reasons why civil discourse has become rarer is because Americans are no longer confronted with ideas that challenge them. This is

largely because media outlets like Fox News and CNN afford us the opportunity to encase ourselves in an echo chamber that confirms our innate biases. Without a willingness to confront discourse is lost. This doesn’t just affect individuals, ramifications echo outwards into higher levels of government. Take for example the increasingly common Federal government shutdowns, which are often the result of legislators failing to come to the table and agree on a budget. S&P Global analysts said that free speech and civil discourse.