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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE (LETTER.)

## Fireworks Freedom

July 14, 1999 | By Kevin B. O'Reilly.

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CHICAGO — In a July 2 editorial, the Tribune's editorial board spoke out against Indiana's more liberal fireworks laws, calling them a "farce." I find it extremely ironic that when the 4th of July comes around, adults in Illinois aren't allowed to freely celebrate what little liberty they have left.

If an adult chooses to take the risks inherent in purchasing and using some of the more dangerous (and currently illegal) fireworks, why should he be denied that freedom? Rather than support an illegal market in fireworks, let's educate the public about fireworks safety while forcing individuals to take responsibility for their own choices.

The signers of the Declaration of Independence laid their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor on the line for freedom. Many of their contemporaries thought they were crazy. Why not commemorate the anniversary of that courageous act in the most fitting way possible: by giving people the freedom to celebrate it as they choose, wisely or foolishly?

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