

August 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters,

A great deal of our work focuses on drafting legislation. That is because we believe proactive and carefully written laws will deter court and other legal problems at later times. When the Alabama Legislature came under the control of the Republicans, we had hopes of accomplishing some very good measures for the state.

However, we have found that in many instances, we are not able to accomplish what would otherwise be expected. While we have passed a few pro-life bills, we have only passed a small percentage of those proposed. Additionally, we saw the Legislature fail to anticipate same sex marriage problems that would be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Obergefell* case. Finally, we saw the leader of the Alabama Senate introducing the most extensive gambling legislation ever introduced in the Alabama Legislature.

We have communicated with select legislators our concern with this lack of leadership. We have also had feedback that the grassroots is partially to blame. We know there is enough blame to go around. We hope legislators will stand up and do the right thing in the special session and in the regular session early next year. In the meantime, please be aware of your duty as a citizen to communicate with your elected Senator and Representative on important issues.

As you can see from this month's Educational Update, many good bills were proposed in the regular session, but few passed. This is a very regrettable circumstance. Let it be an incentive to all of us, both elected officials and citizens, to endeavor to do the right thing. We know our duty, let us go out and do it.

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting a decision by the Alabama Supreme Court on the marriage issue. That court upheld traditional marriage on March 3, 2015. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld same sex marriage on June 26, 2015. The Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution requires all other courts to uphold orders. The issue: is *Obergefell* a constitutional order?

We are grateful for your continuing support. As we come to the end of summer, we want to remind you that your financial support makes our efforts possible. Please include us in your regular list of supported organizations. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston