

October 2015

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your feedback on last month's Educational Update on "end of life" issues and Alabama's surrogacy law. These issues potentially affect all of us. We will be glad to answer any questions we can on issues that may be affecting you or others. Please feel free to contact us.

The potential for legalizing gambling in Alabama is continuing to gain momentum. We know that the President Pro Tem of the Alabama Senate filed a very extensive pro-gambling bill in this year's regular session. While it did not pass, we expect it to be back in next year's regular session.

The Poarch Indian gambling operations in Atmore and Wetumpka are, no doubt, generating significant revenue that the state could tax. A recent opinion from the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals gives the Indians protection from state efforts to close them down. As this month's Educational Update explains, the state has closed down non-Indian gambling operations, but as a result of this federal court opinion, it does not look like that will be true of the Indian operations. There is still one pending case in the Eleventh Circuit which could give the Attorney General authority to close down the Indian gambling operations.

However, the concern is that legislators will be considering doing a compact with the Indians in the next regular session of the Legislature. This would give the state's blessing to their casinos. There has been much support for it recently and we believe this recent court opinion will just add additional force to their arguments.

We are still awaiting an opinion by the Alabama Supreme Court on a motion filed in the case that addressed same sex marriage. As you recall, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled Alabama's one man/one woman marriage laws are constitutional. Later, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled all states must also recognize same sex marriages. Please be in prayer for members of the Alabama Supreme Court for wisdom in making the correct decision.

Problems with religious freedom continue to increase as a result of the same sex marriage opinion by the U.S. Supreme Court. Pray for our leaders that they all will make wise decisions and that religious freedom will be respected, both in the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government.

Thank you very much for your continuing support of our efforts. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston