

May 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

By the time you receive this newsletter, the legislative session may have ended, or at least there may be two legislative days or less left in the 2016 regular session of the Alabama Legislature. This means the session will probably end during the week of May 2, 2016. After the session is concluded, we will give you a complete update on the legislation with which we assisted.

At this time there remain viable several bills of benefit. For sanctity of life, the Assisted Suicide Prohibition Bill and the Prohibition of Dismemberment of the Unborn Child in Abortion still have a chance to pass. Both of these bills are important for dealing with life issues at both ends of the life spectrum.

We are also very concerned with the passage of bills that may legalize gambling to some extent. We expect a continued push on bills to legalize a lottery. The use of the word “lottery” does not mean buying a numbered ticket at your local convenience store. Rather, it means any “game of chance.” Our main fear, however, is that if this bill were to pass, the people would be deceived into thinking they were approving only a lottery, when they would be giving the Legislature the authority to approve any and all forms of gambling.

Much of our legal efforts this month have been directed toward the renewal of efforts to legalize gambling in Alabama. That is the subject of this month’s Educational Update.

In much of the legislative session we have concentrated on threats to religious freedom. We believe religious freedom is under attack in a much greater, yet subtler, way than it has been since the 1960s. In the coming months, we will be exploring the new threats to religious freedom. We will analyze both legal and political impacts on religious freedom.

Thank you very much for your continuing financial support. Please continue to pray for our efforts. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston