

September 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The last time we faced a major gambling effort was in 2010, the last year the Democrats had control of the Alabama State House. Although a couple of insignificant efforts took place in the last legislative session, we will soon complete a special session with a major push from the Governor's Office and legislative leadership to legalize a lottery, that is gambling, in Alabama.

Our Educational Update this month explains what happened. We are glad to report the failure of the bill, though there is a very good chance the efforts will be renewed in another special session or in the regular session next year. SLI was privileged to participate in the process of analyzing all of the bills, providing testimony to legislative committees and advising legislators and opponents of gambling.

We all owe a great deal of thanks to Joe Godfrey with ALCAP and Katherine Robertson, Andrew Yerby and Caleb Crosby with the Alabama Policy Institute. Additionally, there was help from Eunie Smith and Deborah Love with Eagle Forum of Alabama, as well as, family organizations and interested persons across the state. Without their cooperation and diligence, it is likely the lottery legislation would have passed and next year we would have seen wide open casino gambling in the State of Alabama.

Consistent testimony was given by a number of persons explaining that gambling damages the family and is a tax on the poor, a regressive tax, and addictive. Lotteries in other states have proven to be inefficient manners of raising taxes. While we often hear it is important to help the poor, it is surprising that both Democrats and Republicans alike in the Alabama State have decided that taxing the poor is one of the best methods of raising revenue for the state.

We are grateful for your continuing support. Serving and protecting the family in Alabama is one of the Southeast Law Institute's primary goals. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston