

January 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We begin every year with optimism in our efforts to protect religious freedom, the sanctity of life, the family and other important values and institutions. This year is no different. We are encouraged by cabinet selections made by President-elect Donald Trump. We urge everyone to continue to be in prayer for this administration.

One of SLI's most important issues is the sanctity of life. This month's Educational Update deals with the Alabama Pro-Life Coalition's new concerted effort to pass meaningful legislation that will withstand or avoid court action. The Update is the content of a letter sent to all Representatives and Senators in the Alabama Legislature whom we believe to be pro-life.

In recent years, we had great hope that Republican leadership would pass meaningful pro-life legislation. Several bills a year have been passed. However, our approach has been fragmented and there are those who want to engage in a frontal attack on the constitutionality of the *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion in 1973. We do not believe the time is right. While we may have immediate satisfaction of passing an important sounding law, as in the past, it would be immediately enjoined.

Until we see the outcome of Donald Trump's appointments to the bench, we will not know the future of abortion in America. It will take several years before enough judges are appointed to significantly impact the moth eaten Obama years. We have been hoping to reverse *Roe* for 44 years. It is not an easy task.

For these reasons, with only minor exception, all of the pro-life, pro-family conservative groups in Alabama have joined as APLC in this position. There are probably two or three individuals speaking for themselves or maybe a group who do not coalesce with APLC. APLC has tried to be inclusive with everyone and we are hopeful that, when the Legislature begins in February, we will all be together. Please be in prayer for a concerted effort to protect life, at both ends of the spectrum, in Alabama.

Please pray for our overall efforts for the year. Thank you for your financial support. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston