

March 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We continue to watch the developments of President Donald Trump's administration. The persons he is appointing and who are being approved by the U.S. Senate appear to be those who would give him good advice and direction. Nevertheless, he is still engaging the media and the public as he did in the campaign. While that is subject to criticism, many have noted that it is simply the way Trump acts. This presidency is going to be a different experience.

Trump has taken on the media. No one has ever done it. Conservatives have always believed the media has a liberal bias. Who can predict the outcome?

This year's Alabama legislative session has started off with an encouraging step. In the first hearing of the House Health Committee, four pro-life bills were approved, *viz.*, the Alabama Child Placing Agency Inclusion Act (HB24), the Healthcare Rights of Conscience Act (HB95), the Assisted Suicide Ban Act (HB96), and a constitutional amendment for Personhood (HB98). It is important you thank your Representatives for their votes. Check the Legislature website: www.legislature.state.al.us and follow the links to find your Representatives and members of the House Health Committee.

Although several gambling bills were pre-filed, none have showed any movement at this time. We hear sponsors are waiting on a report from the Governor's Advisory Council on Gaming before moving forward. The timetable for the Council's report is not set, although it will be at least later in the session. We will be monitoring that process and be prepared to advise on the magnitude of the bills that may come forward. It is likely the bills will be similar to last year's, trying to open the door for expanded gambling in Alabama and a compact with the Indians to permit them to have casino operations.

In an effort to clear the air and provide objective advice to the Governor's Advisory Council on Gaming, I testified and provided a report. This month's Educational Update is a summary of that report. If you would like to have a complete electronic copy of the report, please contact my office and we will email it to you.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston