

June 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thankfully, we have finished the legislative session. It was an extremely busy session. SLI was privileged to provide legal advice and services at no charge to a number of pro-family groups and legislators. We participated in the drafting of legislation, testified in committee, and generally explained the constitutional issues involved in religious freedom and the sanctity of life. We also addressed a number of collateral issues affecting fundamental individual constitutional rights.

Our Educational Update this month focuses on a major attack to religious freedom. Well funded and prepared proponents of state regulation ambushed church daycares this year. However, with the concentrated help of many organizations, churches and individuals, the threat was overcome. We believe you will find the explanation interesting.

For the first time in the history of pro-life efforts in the Alabama Legislature, the Alabama Pro-Life Coalition passed every bill that it requested. There were three principal bills agreed upon by APLC and submitted to Senate and House leadership. There was a fourth bill proposed in the House. These bills were Prohibition of Physician Assisted Suicide, the Healthcare Rights of Conscience Act, the Child Care Placing Agency Inclusion Act and a proposed amendment to the Alabama Constitution recognizing the personhood of the unborn child, which will appear on the 2018 general election ballot. We will give a full report on these bills in our next month's Educational Update.

Because protection of religious freedom is the first hallmark of SLI's existence, we are very sensitive to circumstances and issues that directly or indirectly affect those freedoms. Living in an increasing secular world where attention to traditional Christian values is marginalized, we find our state and country dancing to the skirl of the secular piper's tune. Religious freedom is under attack in ways different and more seductive and destructive than in the past. We will expand on this in coming months.

Please continue to be in prayer for our efforts. We are greatly thankful for your financial support. As always, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston