

July 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We hope you are enjoying your summer. We are glad for the respite that comes with the vacation months.

This month's Educational Update explains a highlight for pro-life groups in Alabama. The Alabama Pro-Life Coalition, which consists of not only pro-life groups, but pro-family, conservative and other Christian groups and ministries, is pleased to announce a great success in this year's legislative effort. As you will see, a strategy that worked in cooperation with the leadership and members of the Alabama Legislature was successful resulting in the passage of very important pro-life legislation.

We have had several questions about legislative bill HB440, which permits state regulation of certain residential facilities housing minor children and which may operate as church ministries. Next month's Educational Update will provide some explanation on that. For the time being, we simply wanted to say that HB440 is good legislation and we do not expect any problems from it. The concern is that it is an encroachment on church ministry. However, the facilities that are regulated are not usually actual church ministries and because minor children are involved, there needs to be some oversight for their protection. There have been significant abuses of children in these facilities.

We are grateful for being able to play a role in this year's legislative efforts. While we are thankful to legislators and advocates, we must always recognize the importance of God's sovereign will. Here is how we have ended some of our recent communications to legislators and advocates:

Finally, we give thanks to the Lord. "A man's heart devises his way: but the Lord directeth his steps." Proverbs 16:9. We made our plan, but we did not have the power to make it work. Also, there were many in authority with whom we needed cooperation. "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever he will." Proverbs 21:1. There were many instances throughout the process, as there always are, where we see the hand of the Lord at work. We are grateful for His presence with us.

We hope you enjoy the freedoms of this "Heav'n rescued land" this July Fourth! Thank you for your trust and support. On behalf of all who have contributed, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston