

September 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The war on the unborn child has been unrelenting since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*. That decision astounded civilized America by finding an unborn child was not a person within the meaning of the U.S. Constitution. For 44 years that war has not been won or lost, but continues with fierce fervency. This is simply because we have such respect for human life and the unborn child should be included in the legal definition of life in America. Similarly, throughout the world, there is abortion on demand and there are those who respect life who continue in their own battles.

The predecessor organization to SLI drafted the original 1987 Alabama Parental Consent Law. Abortion advocates had pushed the issue that a minor girl did not need her parents' consent for an abortion. Unfortunately, courts agreed and allowed the girl to obtain the abortion if condoned by a judge. There were virtually no safeguards for the girl and certainly none for the unborn child. The Alabama Legislature stepped up and passed the statute to do what it could to protect the two of them.

While the law was weak, it did all it could under federal court decisions. In 2014, SLI drafted amendments to the old law, hoping that with the passage of these many years, we could strengthen protections for a minor mother and her child. These were common sense amendments that did nothing to distract from the confidentiality of the judicial proceeding, yet providing some measure of reasonableness to the process. Unfortunately, a federal magistrate, a type of lesser federal trial court judge, found most of those amendments unconstitutional. This month's Educational Update explains that decision.

It is truly unreasonable that the state should be precluded from protecting these important rights and for forbidding parents to be involved, if they know of the girl's efforts. But, in all laws related to abortion, common or good legal sense has no place. Until the U.S. Supreme Court lifts the ridiculous constraints of abortion, we will have unacceptable decisions like in these two cases. Merely passing statutes will not change anything. The federal judiciary will strike them down. This impedes our efforts to pass common sense laws and enhances the need for the President to appoint judges at all levels who respect the sanctity of life. It is only then we can expect a return to sanctity of human life sanity.

We are grateful for your continuing support for the sanctity of life. Please continue to pray for our efforts in these regards. We thank you for your partnership with us. Remember to vote in the September 26 Republican Senate runoff between Luther Strange and Roy Moore. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston