

March 2019

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Due to the untiring and dedicated efforts of the pro-life community, the tragedy of legalized abortion remains an important public issue. Our opposition to abortion is multifaceted. It consists of ministry to women through pregnancy care centers with related spiritual, emotional and physical help. There are the sidewalk counselors who reach out to women entering abortion facilities and who work to bring public notice to the existence of these facilities. There are also the legal and political efforts to reduce the number of abortions and improve women's healthcare at abortion facilities through laws.

Due to these efforts, in the latest reporting year, 2014, the number of abortions fell to the lowest rate since 1973, when abortion became legal. Between 2011 and 2014, the number of abortion clinics fell 65 nationwide and 13% in the south.

Now, we believe these efforts must be extended to actually prohibiting abortion at any stage of pregnancy. This requires laws that test the thesis of *Roe v. Wade*, that the unborn child is not a person. The Alabama Pro-Life Coalition expects to come forward with a bill for the Alabama Legislature this month. This month's Educational Update was provided to legislators about two weeks ago. We will outline the bill in a coming Educational Update. It is in its final stages, but there is much left to be done before it is introduced.

Our October 2018 Educational Update was a letter sent to the Alabama State Department of Education on teaching of yoga in public schools. Though regulations prohibit it, some schools practice it. After our letter, the State Board was to consider a proposed amendment to the regulation that would permit yoga to be taught, but not in a religious manner. Of course, that is impossible. Again, we wrote the Board pointing out religious Establishment Clause issues. The Board did not consider the regulation at the planned meeting. We will continue to oppose this unconstitutional effort.

Your support makes our efforts possible. Thank you for your contribution and your prayers. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston

AEJ/pmm