

July 2019

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This month's Educational Update is a report on the legislative session that just ended. Because last year was an election year and the Legislature adjourned at the end of April and did not reconvene until March of this year, it was almost a year without any legislative activity.

However, once it got going, it was pretty much nonstop. You may recall the session opened with about a week of activity and then adjourned to permit a special session. After it concluded a few days later, the Legislature went back into the regular session again. It ended on May 31, 2019.

It was a session of opposites. As you will see from my Educational Update, some very good bills were passed such as the Alabama Human Life Protection Act and the Alabama Released Time Credit Act. We were able to stop authorization of yoga being taught in public schools and a very important free speech bill passed.

On the other hand, significant energy was expended by Republicans and Democrats alike to promote gambling. Fortunately, only the fantasy sports contests bill passed. The others came close. We expect to see this type of pressure to promote gambling in Alabama in coming sessions, which may include a special session in the fall.

SLI is privileged to be able to provide testimony and legal analysis to legislators and committees on these various bills. We hope our service is valuable to members of the Legislature and in turn to Alabama citizens.

As an update on the Alabama Human Life Protection Act, I recently met with Attorney General Steve Marshall and some of his staff. They are preparing and will do a very good job defending the law. I have confidence in them.

Your support of SLI makes this possible. Thank you very much for your commitment to work with us.

With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston

AEJ/pmm