

April 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Due to the spread of the coronavirus, on March 19, 2020, Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama Department of Public Health issued a statewide order that restricted activities including delaying “all elective dental and medical procedures.” We learned that abortion clinics were continuing to operate and insisted they also be closed. However, ADPH decided performing elective abortions is an essential service and the clinics may remain open. We are continuing our efforts to address this.

While Dr. Scott Harris (state health officer) is answerable only to the State Board of Health, both he and Governor Ivey need to know this position is supported only by abortion advocates and certainly not the people of Alabama. It is also against the state policy by constitutional and statutory provisions. We recommend everyone contact Governor Ivey and Dr. Harris requesting this ridiculous order be reversed.

The spread of the coronavirus has affected all of our daily lives. For SLI, this is the season of legislative activity. We have worked very hard on a number of bills such as the Alabama Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act (VCAP) (prohibiting sex changes on minors), legalization of marijuana use (medical) and other legislative bills. It appears that both good and bad, these bills may not make it through the session. Like everyone else, we expect the Legislature will restrict its meeting because of the important health reasons. As we have more information on legislative activities, we will let you know.

This month’s Educational Update addresses another aspect of the pandemic, how does it impact the right of the church to have meetings? This is a very serious question with many implications and the possibilities of offense to some. Our sincerely held religious beliefs are what direct our lives. We should never take protection of religious liberties lightly. But, how do we weigh that against other compelling needs?

Thank you for your continuing financial and prayer support of our efforts. Without you, we would not be able to carry on. We pray for your wellbeing and your caution as we all work through these very difficult days.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston