

June 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As you know, the legislative session ended prematurely this year. The budgets were passed and the Governor signed them into law. A few local bills passed, but nothing significant. It is likely there will be a special session later in the year. Special sessions are limited to what the Governor puts in “the call,” otherwise any legislation introduced not included in the call must be passed by a two-thirds vote of each chamber. Consequently, contested bills usually do not have a chance to pass. We regretted the premature end to the session. Many of the bills we have earlier outlined in our Educational Updates and newsletters did not pass of course. Some were good. Some were bad. Most will be back in the next regular session.

At the same time, the pandemic has presented to us new and unique problems. In the April and May Educational Updates we addressed religious freedom issues. First, there was the question about whether the lockdown could stop churches from meeting and then there was the question about whether churches should take the stimulus funds from the federal government. Those issues are still developing and we may have more reports on these at a later date. At this time, Governor Kay Ivey, Attorney General Steve Marshall and State Health Officer Scott Harris have responded constitutionally properly.

In the abortion debate, pro-lifers are always accused of politicizing the issue. Those who favor abortion wear the mantle of reasonableness. They rely on the faulty *Roe v. Wade* opinion that abortion is constitutional and every woman is entitled to that right. When the coronavirus began to spread, government at all levels issued orders like the “shelter in place” order from the Alabama Department of Public Health. All but essential services would be temporarily stopped. However, abortion clinics continued to operate and even receive patients from other states where abortion clinics had been temporarily closed. This month’s Educational Update details our efforts to unpoliticize abortion and properly treat it as a nonessential service in most cases.

Thank you for continuing to support us during these difficult times. It is during difficult times that our constitutional rights are often placed in jeopardy. In addition to the issues mentioned above, we must be on our guard for crisis-inspired burdens on other liberties, such as, our rights of privacy and against unlawful searches. While we might acquiesce to temporary strictures, we must assure they are temporary and truly necessary.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston