

February 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters,

February 2, 2021 will start the regular session of the Alabama Legislature. As you might expect, this year will have restrictions such as we faced last year, due to the pandemic. We had a Zoom meeting with the House Speaker, Mac McCutcheon, a few days ago. He gave us the guidelines under which they would operate. There will be an initial two week session and after that they would take a week off and assess how things were operating. We will have some limitations on our abilities to meet and talk with legislators on important legislation. We hope we will be able to work around those problems. There is a very good chance that many bills will not get passed this year due to the ongoing pandemic.

We expect to see in the early weeks some very important bills to be filed and addressed. These include one from Senator Orr (SB30) which will provide immunity to businesses, churches and non-profit organizations from Coronavirus related lawsuits. There is no way these operations can protect against such an invasive virus. Therefore, it is important that immunity be given to protect unwarranted lawsuits.

We also expect to see a gambling bill. It is our understanding that the Indian and non-Indian gambling interests in the state are working on a comprehensive and massive bill to legalize gambling in Alabama. The Governor's commission recently released an almost 900 page report which, unfortunately, leans more in favor of legalizing gambling and raising revenues for the state. We will provide additional information on that report and that legislation as it develops.

We will once again be supporting the V-CAP bills (to criminalize sex-change procedures and operations on minors) which have been pre-filed as HB1 and SB10. We will also work to assist the drug treatment facilities who are supporting HB2, to schedule as a controlled substance Tianeptine, an addictive drug currently being sold over-the-counter in many convenience stores and other places. Bills that cause us concern will be like SB1, providing Coronavirus tracing and SB2, which permits license plate scanners. These have the very great potential of violating individual liberties. This month's Educational Update focuses on current pro-life issues and efforts in the state.

Thank you very much for your continuing support of our efforts. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston