

April 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We continue to see executive orders and legislative initiatives by the Biden Administration and the Democrat led Congress. Many of these affect the Constitutional freedoms of religion and speech. The primary focus is to remove religion based opposition to LGBTQ+ “rights.” While we all respect the rights of others to believe and act based on their personally deemed choices, we do not expect those so called “rights” to preclude others from exercising their rights.

There is a vast difference in constitutionally protected rights and rights of choice. The rights to worship, believe and speak are constitutionally protected. The government should not challenge those rights, the way it is being done. We appreciate your support of SLI in our efforts to oppose those initiatives.

As a brief update for Alabama legislative action, the VCAP bill will soon be moving to the Alabama Senate for a vote. We have been able to avoid unfavorable amendments to it thus far. It is important to protect minors from sex change surgeries.

A very important statute was passed. Act #2021-4, provides civil immunity to businesses, churches and non-profits, schools and other entities from liability related to Covid claims. We all know the difficulties we faced over the last year, which continue, on how to most effectively protect persons from contracting the disease. These entities have tried to operate and remain open for the public good. We do not wish to see billboard lawyers taking advantage of potential defendants and their insurance policies in the name of damages for people who contracted Covid in pursuit of routine daily activities. The plaintiffs and defense lawyers bars, businesses, healthcare providers, churches and others worked together to pass this law which will be for the general good. If you have questions about it, please contact us.

The yoga bill may soon be considered by the Alabama Senate. It has passed the House. It received an overwhelming vote. We have found it difficult to persuade legislators that yoga is an integral part of a world religion and is not merely an exercise program. If it is merely exercise, it should be called that and not yoga. We will continue to advise on this issue.

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

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston