

May 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Our Educational Update this month is a call for prayer and for action in the waning days of the Alabama Legislative Session. By the time you read this there will be three legislative days left. Customarily, there is a logjam of bills to be considered by the Legislature before it adjourns. It becomes more difficult to get a bill on a Special Order Calendar for consideration. There are two bills, one good and one bad with which we are concerned, *viz.*, VCAP and Gambling.

We must also pray for our country and our leaders. Traditional values are under attack. SCOTUS has reviewed a number of cases which are encouraging. During the pandemic SLI was involved in Governor Ivey lifting her restriction on church services. A similar case, *Tandon v. Newsom*, went to SCOTUS, where the court required California to treat in home religious services the same as other activities. Restrictions on the free exercise of religion were lifted.

A SCOTUS opinion we look forward to by June involves state requirements for donors to non-profits to be revealed. A strange coalition of conservative and liberal groups have coalesced to challenge a California law which requires making public the names of donors to nonprofit organizations. These donors may be subject to retrobution because they have contributed to organizations such as ones opposing abortion or LGBTQ+ issues.

We faced a similar legislative effort in Alabama some years ago, but defeated it. Persons must feel free to donate to causes they support without fear of repercussions. We have witnessed aggressive actions of those who oppose the progressive agenda. We are even being scientifically categorized as having an “Intolerant Personality Disorder,” meaning we are racist, sexist and homophobic.

The “yoga bill” (HR246) would permit the practice of yoga in Alabama public schools. Until now, state law prohibited it as religion. That bill has passed the House and may yet be considered by the Senate in spite of our consistent efforts to advise those bodies of its unconstitutionality.

Thank you for support of our efforts. With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston