

February 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Although the state of Alabama has passed the strongest abortion prohibition law in the nation, all such laws remain tied up in court. In the meantime, it is important to make every reasonable effort to regulate abortion and improve health care services to women. Working with the Alabama ProLife Coalition, SLI provides legal support.

In the Alabama ProLife Coalition memo provided with our November 2021 Newsletter, we reported that amendments we had drafted to the Alabama Parental Consent to Abortion Law were addressed in a court case, *Reproductive Health Services v. Luther Strange*, et al. We explained that a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals had struck down three of the most important provisions of the amendment. We refer you back to that memorandum for a full explanation.

We were very disappointed that the 11th Circuit did not see the wisdom of protecting a young girl who is facing an unfortunate life situation, including the life of her unborn child. We did not believe the court's opinion was correct. The Alabama Attorney General's office also did not agree and requested a further review of the case.

The 11th Circuit has granted an *en banc* review of the case. This means that all of the active judges on the 11th Circuit, probably about twelve, will be reviewing the Alabama law and the preceding court opinions. Granting an *en banc* review is an unusual and significant event in the life of a case. It is significant because a number of judges on the court believe further review is necessary. We are hopeful they disagree with the three-judge panel's opinion and uphold our amendments to the law. It will be some months before an opinion is handed down by the court. In the meantime, we will be optimistic and praying for a proper and wise decision by the court.

In the meantime, we are pursuing other legislation to reduce the number of abortions. The Biden Administration wants to use federal dollars to pay for abortions. This month's Educational Update is a memo which we have prepared for Legislators. The law we are proposing would prohibit the State of Alabama from using any federal or state funds to pay any abortions, except for the life of the mother, rape or incest.

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

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston

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