

November 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

There is never a shortage of issues. We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the fight and for your support.

In last month's newsletter, we gave a brief report on subpoenas that had been issued by the United States Department of Justice to Eagle Forum of Alabama and the Southeast Law Institute for all of our records related to the VCAP legislation. Since last month, there was a federal court hearing on October 14, 2022, concerning the subpoenas. The judge began the hearing by reading the entire DOJ subpoena and commented negatively on the stunning breadth and irrelevancy of it. He closely questioned the Assistant U.S. Attorney who had signed the subpoena. It was evident the judge was not happy.

The judge questioned whether the genesis of the subpoena came from Washington and not local prosecutors. He wondered whether rules of procedure will change from the administration to administration attacking advocacy and legal groups who may oppose them. The government had no answer.

The court quashed the subpoenas. We will file a request for sanctions. There may be a modified subpoena to Eagle Forum of Alabama, limited only to what medical studies they may know of that support VCAP. The issue is not resolved to the point that we can give a full report. We will do so as soon as possible.

The gambling issue is like a cancer that cannot be healed. It continues in different forms and places. We were encouraged this month by an Alabama Supreme Court opinion that will serve to close down the illegal slot machine businesses that masquerade as bingo. However, we expect this to be a catalyst for further initiatives in the coming legislative session to pass a constitutional amendment and laws legalizing expanded gambling. This month's educational update addresses that.

With personal regards, I am,

Yours Very Truly,

A. Eric Johnston

AEJ/pkh