

April 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The 2023 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature is finally beginning. As you know the legislature went in for a couple of days in March, then recessed for a Special Session to spend Covid related funds, but is now back in Regular Session.

We are beginning to see Bills filed and it appears that it will be an active session. One of our main goals this year will be to protect the Alabama Human Life Protection Act, which now prohibits abortion in Alabama. There will be several attacks on that law.

First, two senate bills have been filed *viz.*, SB34, which intends to totally repeal the AHLPA and HB35 which intends to add rape and incest exceptions to it. We will oppose these bills and have already requested public hearings to explain why these should not be passed.

You may have also seen some publicity on a bill that would add to the murder statute the prosecution of a woman who takes an abortifacient. Under the AHLPA, drug induced abortions are illegal. We are working on ways to stop the drugs from being shipped into Alabama from China, India and other foreign places beyond the jurisdiction of Alabama law. The answer to that is not to criminalize mothers and send them to prison for murder.

The Alabama Pro-Life Coalition has always exempted women from prosecution from the various laws we have had passed related to abortion. The AHLPA also exempts women. Our goal is to minister to them and to help them. We will be providing detailed information about this. That bill has not been dropped yet, so we do not want to comment on what it may be. If you hear anything that raises questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact us.

We are working on bills to allow school choice, i.e., state funds available to be used for a parent to choose a non-public education and criminalization of Drag Queen activities where minors are present. There is talk of gambling bills, but none yet. We will report on these and other activities during the session.

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

Yours Very Truly,

A. Eric Johnston

AEJ/pkh