

June 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On important issues this was an unproductive legislative year. It was the first time in a new quadrennium with a significant number of newly elected Senators and Representatives. We hoped for an opportunity to measure the political philosophy of new members, but there were not enough determinative votes. However, we see many of the new members as future leaders.

This month's Newsletter and Educational Update comes just as the session concludes. We do not have a conclusive report. We will give that soon. We can report, however, on a few important bills that were not reached.

The most significant prolife bill for this term was HB 208. This bill would have provided \$10 million in Alabama tax credits for dollar-for-dollar contributions to Pregnancy Resource Centers. With the Passage of the Alabama Human Life Protection Act, the centers are finding there are many families in need. This bill, along with a number of other tax credit bills, was not reached as a result of purported state financial reasons. One excuse is that the reduction of the grocery tax reduced income to the state and the state could not give out tax credits.

A bill that would have prohibited sexually charged demonstrations in places where minors are expected to be present made no progress. HB 401 was filed late in the session without time to process, and likely would have passed. Although everyone from the Governor down agreed school choice should be made available to parents, agreement could not be reached and the main bill, the PRICE ACT only got out of the Senate Committee. This would be particularly valuable to lower-income families who cannot afford nonpublic school tuition. Differences of opinion as to how this should be done have resulted in uncertainty. We will report more on these and others later.

Of course, what would an Alabama Legislative Session be without gambling legislation? This month's Educational Update explains a very serious effort to legalize gambling in Greene Co. Alabama. We continue to be astounded at either the boldness or the ignorance of Alabama Legislators on the gambling issue.

Thank you for your continuing support. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston