

November 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Every year about this time we begin looking forward to the next Alabama Legislative Session. There are many issues that arise which can be addressed legislatively and, of course, there are issues that are presented by Legislators that can cause problems.

One of the main problems that we deal with session to session is gambling. However, in that next year is an election year, Legislators avoid trying to deal with contentious issues. We hope to see, however, a gambling bill of another nature.

We have continued to recommend an increase in penalties for gambling violations. Currently, violations of the criminal code provisions on gambling are only misdemeanors. A defendant pays a small fine and moves on with more gambling. We hope to see legislation that will increase those penalties to various felony degrees. If a person knows they are going to prison, they will avoid that activity.

Sanctity of life is another issue that is constant. Overruling of the *Roe v. Wade* right to abortion gave states the opportunity to legislate, and that presents many and varied facets of the issue. This month's Educational Update again speaks to something to which we commonly speak and that is the continuing development of issues related to abortion.

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

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston

AEJ/pkh