

## **ALCAP & American Character Builders**

2376 Lakeside Drive Birmingham, AL 35244

205.985.9062 / Fax 205.985.9015 / [www.ALCAP.com](http://www.ALCAP.com) / [www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org](http://www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org)

Joe Godfrey, Executive Director

**LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:** During the 2017 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature, besides changes in the governorship, the United States Senate Seat of Alabama and the State Attorney General, within the Legislature itself, changes in leadership occurred and continued to occur even after the Session ended in mid-May. New committee chairpersons are still being announced.

As for the issues, pro-gambling bills were put on hold until a report of the Governor's Advisory Council on Gaming (Gambling) could finalize their report. However, with Bentley's resignation, that report and the Council itself seems to have been "ditched" by Governor Kay Ivey.

One pro-gambling bill that did almost make it to the finish line was the Daily Fantasy Sports Bill. This bill would have legalized Daily Fantasy Sports gambling in Alabama and, as ALCAP argued, open the door for full-fledged Class III gambling (slot machines, table games, roulette wheels, etc.) into Alabama. In a private meeting, an unnamed, but very reliable source, confirmed our assessment to be true. We stopped the bill from passing out of the Senate on the last day, but it will no doubt be back next year. Everyone needs to contact their legislators and let them know of your opposition to this legislation.

Several local Sunday alcohol sales bills passed. It is almost impossible for ALCAP to stop these bills without the involvement of the local citizens. Churches and Christian individuals must speak out to their local leaders and legislators if we are going to stop this continued expansion of alcohol.

The best news of all from the 2017 Regular Session was the passage of several pro-life bills:

- HB24 (Child-Placing Agency Inclusion Act), protecting faith-based adoption agencies from being forced to place children with couples who do not hold to the deeply held religious beliefs of those agencies.
- HB95 (Healthcare Rights of Conscience Act), protecting health care providers who decline to perform services that violate their consciences.
- HB96 (Assisted Suicide Ban)
- HB98 (Constitutional Amendment concerning Alabama's commitment to the right of life of unborn children).  
As a Constitutional Amendment, this will ultimately require a vote of the people of Alabama to become law.

ALCAP also helped negotiate a compromise on the Church Daycare Bill (HB277) that would protect children, as well as the religious freedom of churches. The bill failed to pass, but we will work for a better bill next year.

**CONSULTATIVE MATTERS:** Executive Director of ALCAP, Joe Godfrey, is available to present a sermon series or conference entitled, "The Forgotten Command." This series looks at the GREAT COMMANDMENTS (to love God and others), the GREAT COMMISSION (to make disciples) and the GREAT CALLING (or, "The Forgotten Command" to be salt and light in a decaying and dark world). To schedule a weekend conference or a half-week series, contact the ALCAP office at 205.985.9062 or send an email to [jgodfrey@alcap.com](mailto:jgodfrey@alcap.com).

**AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS:** The four available American Character Builders kits (*Alcohol—It's a Killer!*; *Tobacco Awareness*; *Saying NO to Meth, Marijuana and Cocaine*; and *The Bully Issue*) are all now available online at no cost for use in churches, associations and local schools. We are continuing to raise additional funds to produce videos that address addiction issues facing students and their families. For more information and to view short videos introducing the kits, and to watch a trailer that introduces our new online video series, go to [www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org](http://www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org).

The 2017 ALCAP/Dan Ireland Salt & Light Award was presented to former State Senator Hank Erwin of Birmingham, AL for his efforts to impact our culture for Christ.

***ALCAP and American Character Builders are completely dependent on the prayers and financial support of the churches of Alabama. Please consider adding these ministries to your on-going prayer lists and to your church and associational budgets so that we can continue this important ministry.***