

ALCAP & American Character Builders

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Joe Godfrey, Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS: The 2018 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature was shortened by a few days due to the desire of legislators to go home and campaign for the upcoming June Primaries. The legislative leadership also indicated that they did not want any (or many) controversial bills introduced during the session. Of course, what they think is controversial and what ALCAP sees as controversial are not always aligned!

The most controversial bill introduced was the "Daycare Bill" (House Bill 76). HB76, as it was finally passed and signed into law, protects the religious liberty of churches while also protecting children and families from unscrupulous daycares that were simply using the name of a church to avoid adhering to rules set up by the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). ALCAP's legal advisor, Eric Johnston, working with the executive director of the Alabama Christian Educators Association, Robin Mears, helped draft the legislation so that legitimate church daycares would be protected from infringement by the state government. If your church daycare needs help wading through the changes in the laws, feel free to contact ALCAP and we will connect you with Eric Johnston or Robin Mears, who should be able to answer any of your questions.

Several local alcohol bills (mostly dealing with Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages) passed in spite of ALCAP's efforts to stop them. It is up to local pastors and churches to speak out in opposition to such bills in order to make the greatest impact. Through ALCAP's email alerts, which individuals can sign up to receive on the home page at www.ALCAP.com, people can stay up-to-date on local and state-wide bills of this nature.

No pro-gambling bills got very far this year, but ALCAP expects there to be an onslaught of gambling bills during the 2019 Regular Session, which begins the first Tuesday of March 2019. Many candidates are running on a "pro-gambling" platform, so Christians and church members need to be aware of who the pro-gambling candidates are.

One important bill that passed during the 2018 Session was a constitutional amendment that will appear on the November 2018 ballot. This amendment, if passed by the citizens of Alabama, says the Ten Commandments may be displayed in government buildings throughout the state. While ALCAP supports a "YES" vote on the amendment, legal challenges to the amendment are sure to follow. The law concerning this is already well-settled by SCOTUS. If approved, this Alabama constitutional amendment will not allow anything that is not already allowed. It is a proper statement, however, of our public policy favoring religious rights. ALCAP's legal advisor, Eric Johnston, has written an analysis of the amendment. A copy of that analysis is available on the ALCAP website (www.ALCAP.com).

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.

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. A new video dealing with the opioid crisis in America is now available on the American Character Builders website (www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org). With the video are Bible studies (for use in churches) and lesson plans and discussion questions that are suitable for use in public schools

The 2018 ALCAP/Dan Ireland Salt & Light Award was presented to former State Representative Richard Laird of Roanoke, AL for his efforts to impact our culture for Christ. We also said goodbye to a dear friend and chairman of the ALCAP Board, Dr. Mike McLemore, who passed away in January of 2018. Please pray for his wife, Wanda, and children as they continue to grieve his loss. He was a great friend to ALCAP and a personal friend to many.

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.