

ALCAP & American Character Builders

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Joe Godfrey, Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS: The 2019 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature was historic! The Legislature passed the strictest pro-life bill in the nation (**House Bill 314**) in hopes that it would serve to reverse the 1973 Supreme Court of the U.S. (SCOTUS) Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Shortly after the bill was signed into law by the Governor, it was challenged in court, as we had hoped. Pray that God will use this bill to provide protection for babies in this nation for years to come!

Other bills that ALCAP monitored included the following: 1) Senate Bill 236 (**SB236**), which was passed, established a study commission to evaluate whether or not to move forward with medical marijuana legalization; 2) **SB220**, **SB116** and **SB130**, which (thankfully) all failed to pass, would have given the citizens of Alabama the right to vote on a state-sponsored lottery (legislators will keep trying to pass lottery and/or casino gambling bills unless large numbers of citizens contact their legislators opposing all gambling expansion); 3) House Bill 361 (**HB361**), legalizing Daily Fantasy Sports in Alabama, passed over the objections of ALCAP. This law should have been presented as a constitutional amendment for the people of Alabama to vote on since it is a gambling bill, but proponents argued that it is a game of skill, not true gambling. If we can find someone who has standing with the court to challenge the constitutionality of this law, we may try to challenge it in court.

HB350, which passed over ALCAP's objections, legalizes the direct shipment of wine to people's homes. **HB291**, which also (thankfully) passed, permits students in public schools to leave school premises to attend Bible studies or other religious functions and receive an hour of elective credit; and **HB498**, which also passed and will go into effect next year, sets standards for assuring free speech rights to everyone at all public institutions of higher education.

For more information and to stay updated on activities in the Alabama Legislature, visit **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: In addition to 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*), all available online at no cost for use in churches, associations and local schools, and in addition to the newest packet of resources dealing with the opioid crisis in America, grants have been awarded to American Character Builders for production of updated resources dealing with the dangers of alcohol use and abuse. We hope to have this newest packet of resources available sometime during the next year. Check out all of our resources on the American Character Builders website (**www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org**). Many of our resource packets include Bible studies (for use in churches), as well as lesson plans and discussion questions that are suitable for use in public schools. These resources can be used as outreach tools for churches to impact local schools and communities for Christ.

The **2019 ALCAP/Dan Ireland Salt & Light Award** was presented to **former State Representative Duwayne Bridges of Cusseta, AL** for his efforts in impacting our culture for Christ. We also welcomed a **new chairman of the ALCAP Board, Dr. Chris Crain**. Chris serves as the Executive Director of the Birmingham Metro Baptist Association and has been a friend of ALCAP and a personal friend for many years. Pray for Chris as he helps our ministry continue to thrive.

ALCAP and American Character Builders are completely dependent upon 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.