

ALCAP & American Character Builders

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Joe Godfrey, Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS: During the 2016 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature ALCAP monitored 145 bills dealing with moral issues. Forty-two bills (29% of the bills monitored by ALCAP) dealt with alcohol or other drugs, most of which involved local Sunday alcohol or draft beer sales. Twelve pro-life bills were introduced (8% of the bills monitored) and 18 bills related to religious liberty were introduced (12% of the bills ALCAP monitored).

Gambling continues to be an issue. In the House, Rep. Connie Rowe (R-Jasper) introduced a bill that would have legalized Daily Fantasy Sports (companies such as DraftKings and FanDuel), allowing them to operate in the state of Alabama. The argument was made that this is harmless fun among friends and, because it involves a certain amount of skill, it is not true gambling. However, ALCAP was able to share with legislators a white paper prepared by the national Stop Predatory Gambling organization (www.StopPredatoryGambling.org) that peels back the façade and reveals that it truly is a gambling enterprise worth billions of dollars to the companies that run the games. In the middle of the session, Attorney General Luther Strange issued an order calling on Daily Fantasy Sports leagues to stop operating within the state of Alabama. This action, along with a filibuster by several legislators opposed to the bill, helped to kill the bill for this session. We expect it to come back during the 2017 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature. We also anticipate a huge push to legalize a state-sponsored lottery and casino gambling in an attempt by some legislators to raise revenue for the state. Those who advocate for gambling fail to recognize (or admit) that no state has ever gambled its way out of a financial crisis, but in fact, gambling exacerbates the revenue problems of a state.

ALCAP also worked closely with the Alabama Association of District Attorneys, Christian-based drug and alcohol recovery ministries and others to get legislation passed to ban the sale of Kratom, an over-the-counter drug used by many addicts as a substitute for opioids.

The three pro-life bills that passed included HB45 (the “Unborn Infants Dignity Act” by Rep. April Weaver), SB363 (the “Dismemberment Bill” by Sen. Phil Williams) and HB301 (the “2000 Foot Bill” by Rep. Ed Henry).

CONSULTATIVE MATTERS: In 2015 ALCAP cohosted a series of state and regional conferences for pastors and church leaders designed to help them find ways to address the same-sex “marriage” issue in their local churches and communities. In January of 2016 ALCAP video recorded each of the speakers in that conference and is now making the DVD version of that conference, along with a CD containing PDF files of the printed materials available to local associations and churches at no charge. If your church would like a copy, please contact the ALCAP office.

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 still available for use in churches, associations and local schools. However, we are currently raising funds to put videos and resource material online (which will cost nothing to access). 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.

The **2016 ALCAP/Dan Ireland Salt & Light Award** was presented to **Mrs. Eunie Smith of Birmingham, AL** for her efforts to impact our culture for Christ.

ALCAP and American Character Builders are completely dependent on the prayer 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.