



Alabama Citizens Action Program
"Alabama's Moral Compass"

YES, I want to help advance the work of ALCAP on behalf of the people of Alabama! Enclosed is my donation.

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Cut along this line and return the above form to ALCAP with your check in the enclosed envelope

Dear Friends of ALCAP:

The 2009 Legislative Session has come to an end! The good news is that ALL gambling bills were defeated! In fact, none of the bills that had been introduced garnered enough votes to even be brought up on the floor of either the House or the Senate! The word we received was that the "Sweet Home Alabama" TV ads and direct mail pieces actually resulted in a backlash—many legislators told us that they received far more calls, e-mails and letters asking them to oppose the "Sweet Home Alabama" bills than to support them.

I want to give all of our ALCAP friends this warning: The same people who poured millions of dollars into the "Sweet Home Alabama" ads will be pouring even more money into the campaigns of pro-gambling candidates in the 2010 elections! And, note, too, that their ads will present their candidates as pro-family, church-going people. It is imperative that the faith community does its homework before going to the polls in June of 2010! We must find out who is genuinely pro-family, pro-life, pro-moral and, especially, who is anti-gambling before we mark our ballots next year!

This most recent legislative session was not good for those of us who oppose the expansion of alcohol in our state. The most dangerous bill to pass was HB175, introduced by Rep. Jimmy Martin (D-Dist. 42). This bill allows cities with a population of 1000 or more which are located in dry counties to call for a municipal option (wet/dry vote). We were able to get the bill amended to raise the population requirement to 1000 (it originally stated that the population requirement was only 500) and to raise the required number of signatures on a petition calling for a referendum from 25% to 30% of the total number of voters who voted in the last general election. We also got an amendment included that would require a two-year wait between wet/dry votes and we got two amendments that exempted Blount, Randolph and Clay Counties from the change in the law (these counties will continue to operate under the old law that sets the population at 7000). However, even with these increased restrictions, small communities in dry counties all over the state are beginning to line up to have wet/dry referenda. This is going to become a constant battle over the next several years. The citizens of dry counties who have fought to keep alcohol out of their counties are going to be forced to have alcohol sold in their areas whether they want it or not!

HB175 was vetoed by Governor Riley, but the House voted to override his veto by two votes and the Senate voted to override his veto by only one vote. That Senate vote came after two previous attempts in which the override vote failed—they kept on voting until the lobbyists for the alcohol distributors got the vote they wanted!

Two other alcohol-related bills that passed (and were signed by the Governor) were HB373 (introduced by Rep. Thomas Jackson, D-Dist. 68), which increases the alcohol level in a container of beer from 6% to 13.9% and SB263 (introduced by Sen. Steve French, R-Dist.15) and its companion bill HB448 (introduced by Rep. Greg Canfield, R-48), which increases the level of alcohol in a container of table wine from 14.9% to 16.5%. What concerns me most about these bills is that they were supported and/or sponsored by some legislators who ran as “family values” candidates in 2006! Apparently, these individuals do not see the connection between alcohol and the breakdown of the family in our society!

ALCAP is needed more today than ever before! Our work in consulting with communities that are fighting wet/dry referenda and next year’s anticipated push for gambling expansion in our state requires that we “ratchet up” the work of ALCAP to a new level! To do this we need your help! I know that the summer months are financially challenging for churches, but please do not forget about ALCAP! Due to some unforeseen expenses early in the year (maintenance work on our office building that had to be done), we do not have enough in reserve to get us through the summer months.

ALCAP is the first line of defense for churches and communities. If ALCAP were not offering our school programs and serving as the voice of the faith community in Montgomery, local churches would be dealing with even more alcohol- and gambling-related problems (broken homes, destroyed lives and individual and family financial crises). Your support of ALCAP will help us to accomplish some important goals related to the upgrading and improvement of our school programs and resource materials—items we will be working on during the summer months. Dr. Bill Day will use the summer months to take our alcohol and other drug abstinence programs into detention centers and other venues and I will be continuing to travel the state telling our ALCAP story!

If you would like to have Dr. Day, Dr. Ireland (our Director Emeritus) or myself to speak to your church or association of churches about ALCAP, do pulpit supply or lead a conference on one of the subjects on which ALCAP focuses its attention, please call or e-mail us with possible dates. We would appreciate the opportunity to serve you, your church and your community! Also, please consider taking up a special ALCAP Offering to help us through the summer months. You can also direct people to our website (www.alcap.com) where they can find a variety of resource materials and even donate online.

Most of all, we need your prayers as we continue to provide resources that help churches and Christian individuals to be the “salt and light” that our Lord Jesus called us to be! May God bless you and thank you for your continued support of this vital ministry!

Joe Godfrey, Executive Director
2376 Lakeside Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244
Phone: (205) 985-9062 • Fax: (205) 985-9015
E-mail: jgodfrey@alcap.com
www.alcap.com

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