



SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CONVENTION

Action Needed to Support the “Save Our Women’s Sports” Bill

A House bill (H3347) received a Judiciary Sub-Committee hearing this past Tuesday but a final vote to send the bill to the full Committee was delayed until sometime next week. The bill would ban transgender women (biological men who identify as women) from competing against biological women. Please call your SC House member TODAY and let them know you support the passage of this bill to protect women’s sports and to protect women’s privacy. If you don’t know your state representative, click on the link below, enter your address, and you will find your House member.

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php>



Heartbeat Bill Becomes Law

On Thursday, February 18, 2021, legislative history was made in South Carolina. Governor Henry McMaster made South Carolina the 11th state in the country to pass a bill that protects life in womb the moment a heartbeat is detected. The Senate passed the bill 30 to 15 and the final vote in the House was 74 to 39. SI, the Heartbeat Bill, is the most comprehensive pro-life bill ever signed into the law in South Carolina.





Medical Marijuana (S150 and H3361).

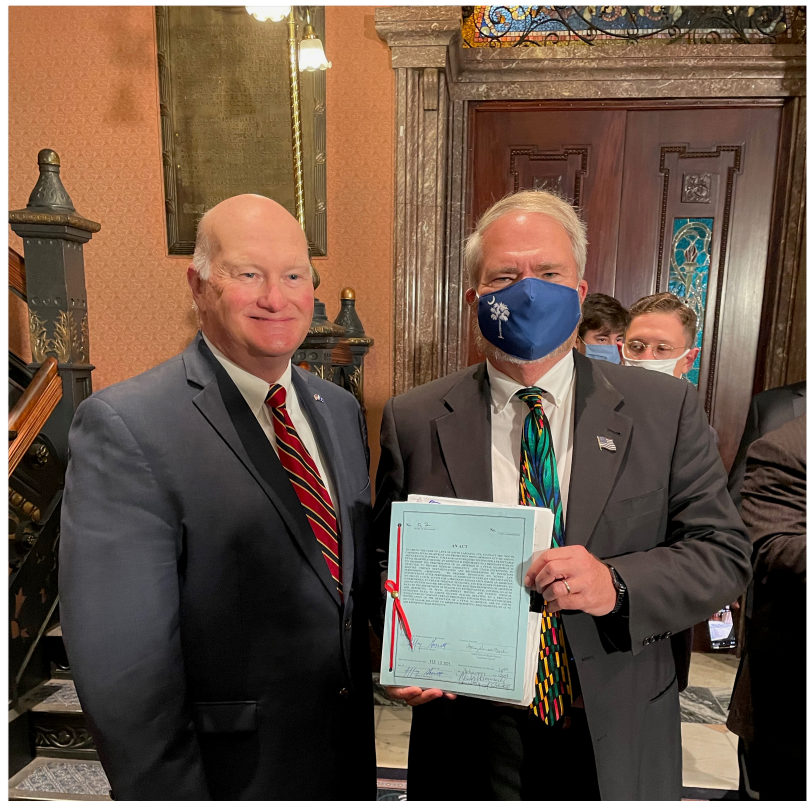
Medical marijuana (the smoking or otherwise ingesting marijuana for the medical benefit) has not seen much action so far in the House or the Senate but that could change in the next two weeks. Medical marijuana is not approved by the FDA and it is opposed by both the South Carolina medical community and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. It is "camel's nose under the tent" legislation that will lead to the ultimate goal of its supporters.... Full legalization of the recreational use of marijuana. Please watch for "Action Alerts" from the Office of Public Policy and be ready to respond by contacting your House or Senate member should these bill progress.

HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

Hate crimes legislation has been filed in the Senate and the House. The most action right now is taking place in the House but a sub-committee hearing has not been scheduled as of this writing. While we certainly condemn all crimes that are committed based on the race, creed, sex, or national origin of the victim, hate crime legislation often leads to hate speech laws that are used against Christians who defend biblical teaching concerning sex and sexuality. tion

A human heartbeat can be detected by ultrasound between six and eight weeks of the pregnancy. To God be the glory! Great things He has done! The fight to pass the Heartbeat Bill began as an idea way back in 2017. Thanks primarily to the leadership of House Family Caucus Leader Rep. John McCravy (R-Greenwood), the bill passed the House in the spring of 2019. It made it through the committee process in the Senate in the fall of 2019, but it stalled once it reached the floor of the Senate in the spring of 2020. We were three precious votes from shutting down debate (cloture) which, would allow the bill to receive a full Senate Vote. The state legislature shut down in March due to COVID.

Then, on November 4, 2020, South Carolina experienced a statewide, red wave election that flipped three senate seats from blue to red and added several new conservative representatives to the House. The old saying that "elections have consequences" is certainly true in South Carolina. The Heartbeat Bill sailed through the Senate and the House in just six weeks. Before Gov. McMaster signed the bill into law, Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit preventing the law from going into effect while it works it



way through the courts. Attorney General Alan Wilson has pledged to defend the bill all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary. Please pray that the Heartbeat Bill will gain a favorable ruling in the courts and babies with beating hearts will be protected in the womb. We hope this bill will make it all the way to the Supreme Court and be instrumental in overturning Roe v. Wade. For more information on the history of the Heartbeat Bill, see my column in this month's Baptist Courier.

PRAY FOR THESE SENATE AND HOUSE MEMBERS



Senator Thomas C. Alexander

*District 1: Oconee and Pickens Counties

*Chairman of the Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee.

*President, Operator of Oconee Office Supply

*President, Operator of Cleveland Gospel Supply

*Birthday: July 25. Full information available:[https://](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0013636362)

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Rep. Merita "Rita" Allison

*District 36: Greenville and Spartanburg Counties

*Chairman of the Education and Public Works Committee

*Communications and Legislator

*Birthday: February 19.

Full information available: [https://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0015909089)

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