



SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CONVENTION

Hate Crimes Bill

Hate Crimes legislation progressed in the House through the sub-committee and full committee process. At the time of this writing, the bill is set to be added to the House calendar for a vote. The bill was amended in sub-committee, taking out the civil penalties section (which would have allowed individuals to sue if they were offended by another individual without the necessity of a court procedure) and removing stalking and harassment from being covered by the hate crimes provision. However, sexual orientation and transgender language are still included in the bill. We will be working to remove this language from the bill. If the language survives, it will be the first time in South Carolina that sexual orientation and transgender categories receive official legal recognition.



Save Women's Sports Legislation Stalls

March may have seasonally seen the start of spring for South Carolina, but for social conservatives in the statehouse it was a blast of cold air. The Save Women's Sports bill that would have prohibited biological males from competing against biological females in High School and Middle School was tabled by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill passed the sub-committee and was recommended to the full committee on a 3 to 1 vote. But last minute maneuvering by two upstate House members plus last minute opposition from the Superintendent of Education and the High School



Medical Marijuana

At the writing of this Newsletter, it appeared the Senate Medical Affairs Committee was poised to give a favorable recommendation for so called medical marijuana, (Now known as S150 "The Compassionate Care Act."). There is no such thing as "medical marijuana." That is a term that is used to confuse the public, making people believe marijuana is FDA approved and is dispensed the way other medications are dispensed. But no FDA approval means it cannot be prescribed by a doctor and it cannot be dispensed by a pharmacy. SLED, The South Carolina Sheriff's Association, and the South Carolina Medical Association are all opposed to this bill. Please call your Senator and your House member. They need to hear from you today!

Scstatehouse.gov.

Sports League led to the bill being tabled. With just over a week before the crossover deadline (the time a bill has to pass at least one chamber to be considered) it is next to impossible that we will see a bill to protect female athletes passed in this legislative session. This is especially disappointing in light of the fact that South Dakota, Arkansas, and Mississippi all passed similar legislation. The tabling of the bill for this session was a major setback, but we are not giving up. We are currently working with Palmetto Family, ADF, and other conservative non-profit organizations to revamp the bill and get it ready to be refiled in January. Please pray for the members of the legislature that they will see the importance of protecting female athletes from unfair competition.



Below are the two legislators we are asking you to pray for this month. They are:



Rep. Carl L. Anderson

District 103: Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg Counties.

Columbia Address: 304C Blatt Building, Columbia 29201

Business phone: 803-734-2933

Committee Assignments: Labor, Commerce and Industry

Vice-Chairman of Regulations and Administrative Procedures.



Senator Karl B. Allen

District 7: Greenville County

Columbia Address: 610 Gressette Building, Columbia, 29201

Committee Assignments: Corrections and Penology, Education, Finance, Labor, Commerce and Industry, and Rules.

Served in the House 2001-2012. Has served in the Senate since 2013.

Please pray for these two South Carolina leaders! Also, consider sending them a card of encouragement, letting them know you are praying for them and send them an encouraging Scripture. It is important that our elected leaders know we are always praying for them.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Just a final word about the importance of knowing your state senators and representatives. Our state leaders have been elected to serve the people of our state. They represent the interests and concerns of the people who elect them from their districts. Taking the time to get to know your state senator and state representative means that when you call them about an issue, they are talking to someone they know and not just an unknown voter who has an issue to discuss.

They need to hear from you in order to represent your views in the Assembly. If they know you are praying for them as well as engaging them passionately about the issues you care about, they will know you are not motivated by politics alone, but by a genuine concern for what you believe is best for our state, based on the Word of God.

**FACTS ABOUT MARIJUANA FROM A JUST RELEASED,
BIPARTISAN STUDY FROM THE US SENATE CAUCUS ON
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL, MARCH 3, 2021**

- No amount of marijuana is safe for adolescents (age 10 to 24).
- Marijuana-impaired drivers threaten public safety, yet no universal detection standards exist.
- Costs of emergency room visits for marijuana related incidents have skyrocketed in recent years and cost millions of dollars.
- One in six of those under 18 who use marijuana will become addicted.
- One in nine users of marijuana will become addicted.
- 30% of users have a marijuana use disorder.
- Research shows the use of marijuana has a negative impact on developing brains (which can be permanent) including:
 - Decreased cognitive ability
 - Loss of IQ (as much as 8 points)
 - Increased risk of psychosis

The current marijuana bill in the Senate allows 18 and under to obtain “medical” marijuana cards if their parent or guardian consents. The bill also provides for 15 cultivation centers in South Carolina before we know anything about the actual demand. Florida, which has four times our population, has only eight centers. This looks like preparation for the eventual legalization of recreational use.