

EAGLE FORUM



of Alabama

Legislative Update

2023

Legislative Week 9

(May 16-18 - Legislative Days 21-23)

We Prayed With Dr. Harry Reeder 2-Hours Before He Entered Heaven

As the Executive Director for Eagle Forum of Alabama, I go to the State House every day the legislature is in session. One of the "extracurricular" events I attend every Thursday morning is the ALCAP legislative prayer breakfast hosted by Executive Director Greg Davis. This week our speaker was Dr. Harry Reeder from Briarwood Presbyterian Church. Although I knew of him, I had never met him. He delivered a thought-provoking message on three critical elements of leadership: character, content, and competency. Many times, he had us laughing at his funny stories and analogies. His message was a blessing and encouragement to me and everyone there. After his message, he graciously visited with legislators and guests. Once the room was almost empty, he said his last good bys and headed towards the elevator. I was standing with Sen Dan Roberts, Sen Larry Stutts, and Greg Davis, and I asked if we could pray together for our weary legislators and all the bills we were working on. Everyone agreed, and we quickly called out to Dr. Reeder, and he turned around and came to us. The 5 of us stood in a circle, lifted our requests to the Lord, and asked that God's will be done. We ended with smiles and headed down the elevator together. Once we were outside, we wished each other well one last time. Sen. Dan Roberts walked him back to his car, and Sen. Stutts, Greg, and I headed across the street to the State House. Little did we know that less than 2 hours later, Harry would be in the arms of Jesus. It is profound to me that the scripture he used that morning, in his last public devotional message on earth, was ***"Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."*** (Heb 13:7) He was a great Christian leader, and we would do well to imitate his faith. We are all still in shock, and our prayers go out to his family, friends, and congregation.

A fundamental question from my divine engagement with this man of faith is this: Am I spending my time, my last hours for all I know, influencing lives, the lost and found, in the same fashion Pastor Reeder touched mine?

Becky Gerritson

ALCAP's Greg Davis has a daily radio show from 5:00-7:00 PM. On [***Thursday's show***](#) he talked about Dr. Reeder's life and their last 12 hours together.

GOOD NEWS FROM WEEK 8:

PASSED THE HOUSE AND HEADED TO THE SENATE:

- **Protecting minors from porn on cell phones and tablets:** ([HB298](#) Rep. Sells) It passed 70-8. This bill simply requires cell phone manufactures to switch their explicit content (porn) filters to "on" on their cell phones and tablets. It's a simple software update so that any time a new cell phone or tablet is purchased and activated in Alabama the phone explicit content filter will automatically default to "on". [See flyer here](#). Big tech companies make a lot of money from porn. The cell phone companies and Google are lobbying hard against it. **On Wednesday, it will be in the Senate *Fiscal Responsibility & Economic Development* committee. Please call the members and respectfully ask them to protect children and give the bill a "favorable report".**
- **Pregnancy Resource bill:** ([HB208](#) Rep. Kiel.) This bill would provide a state income tax credit to individuals and businesses that make voluntary cash contributions to an eligible pregnancy center or residential maternity facility. It passed 76-26.

PASSED IN THE SENATE AND HEADED TO THE HOUSE:

- **ESG Bill:** ([SB261](#) Sen. Roberts) This would prohibit governmental entities from entering into certain contracts with companies that boycott businesses because the business engages in certain sectors or does not meet certain environmental or corporate governance standards or does not facilitate certain activities.

NEW BILL ON THE RADAR



What Is A Woman Act

BILL: [HB405](#) (Rep. DuBose)

BILL DESCRIPTION: This bill would define man, woman, boy, girl, father, mother, male, female, and sex for purposes of use of the terms in the Code of Alabama 1975. This bill would require the state or political subdivisions that collect vital statistics for certain purposes to identify each individual as either male or female at birth.

BILL STATUS: On Wednesday, the House Health Committee held a public hearing. Five members of the LGBTQ community testified in opposition to the

bill. EF Executive Director, Becky Gerritson testified in favor. [Watch the hearing-begin at the 18:07 mark.](#)

EF's POSITION: We support this bill.

ACTION: Please contact the [House Rules Committee](#) and ask them to place this bill on the calendar for a floor vote.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! **THESE BILLS COULD DIE THIS WEEK!**

If these bills are not passed in the Senate by Wednesday day (the 25th day of the legislative session, **they will die.**) Please contact the [Senate Rules Committee](#) and ask them to pick the following bills to come to the floor.

- [SB202](#) (Sen Stutts) The PRICE Act (Universal School Choice bill.)
- [SB247](#) (Sen. Barfoot) Banning Divisive Concepts (CRT)
- [SB171](#) (Sen. Givhan) State Health Officer bill

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