

# UABRA NEWSLETTER

## SPRING EDITION 2012

**H. B. 159 and H. B. 160 got past us this time but we will have another chance when it goes to the Senate. These poorly constructed bills allow the use of state income tax—currently dedicated to education—as cash payments to corporations. It has been sold as an incentive for businesses to add personnel and/or expand operations or for retention of existing jobs.**

The state income tax is the largest and most important source of education funding for k-12 and higher education. The state income tax is guaranteed for school use and has been thus dedicated since 1947. H.B. 159 is a constitutional amendment which would remove the dedication of these taxes and allow for cash payments to businesses (there are no safe guards which would keep a business from saying they needed the incentive to keep their employees when indeed it was not needed. The money would simply be pocketed.

H.B, 160 allows corporations to keep, as cash payments, the state income taxes of employees. Those chosen to receive cash payments will be chosen at the sole discretion of the governor. There is no limit to the total amount of dedicated state income tax the governor can use. While this is called a jobs bill, there are no absolute job creation requirements for corporations in the bill. If passed, this bill would allow taxes that formerly were paid by employees to support education to be used instead for their companies to purchase equipment, vehicles, or capital improvements.

Both of these bills are constitutional amendments and after passage by the House (already done) and Senate (not yet taken-up by the Senate) it would have to be voted upon by the people of the State.

I hope the Senate turns this flatly down—if not, it will be up to the people to let Montgomery know that politicians need to keep their hands off education money. No amount of amending will change the intent of these bills—they call for using education money for NON-EDUCATIONAL purposes.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP

Take a few minutes and call your Senator. Ask that Senator to protect education funds for all by voting no for H.B. 159 and 160 regardless of promised amendments or changes—a raid on education funds is still a raid by any other name. If this is allowed, UAB will not only loose funds but it will loose talented graduate and professional students that must have reasonable places for spouses to work so they can have a chance to complete graduate studies or professional school at UAB. Please know the next attack is likely to be the funds contained within our Retirement System! Stay tuned and stay active—there is no better time to get to know your state representative and senator.

### UABRA ELECTIONS

Be watching the mail for your ballot. We will be electing a new slate of officers for this next year. Remember, our board is constituted of 15 members, 5 of which

rotate off the board every three years—we will be electing five new members that will be introduced at our May Membership meeting. If you want to serve on the board for subsequent years, please notify a board member.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Our next event will be our Spring Seminar, which will be held March 27 (Tuesday) at the auditorium of the Homewood Public Library. Important updates will be provided by a representative of the following: Social Security, TIAA/CREF, State of Alabama Retirement System, AERA and more.

April 3 (Tuesday) AERA will host their annual meeting at the Cahaba Grand in Birmingham. If you are a member of AERA, don't miss. If you are not a member, you are invited but would be a non-voting guest. I will venture to say the most important issue before the voting delegates will be passage of a constitutional amendment calling for a directorship for higher education on the AERA board of directors. It is important we have our voice heard. Influence anyone you think will be attending this meeting. The cost of lunch will be \$20.00.

May 8 (Tuesday) will be the annual UABRA Membership Meeting. Come out and meet the new board members, which will be introduced and installed. Also hear Dr. Carol Garrison catch us up on what is new at UAB. On hand will be Yvonne Akins of Rehabilitation Medicine to give us the latest on the memorial for Dr. Cecil Nepomuceno. We will also have a surprise speaker that you will not want to miss.

### **NATIONAL SCENE**

Congress will be back at it again soon. Programs of interest to all of us will again be on the agenda. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the national health program will again be the focus. Please don't let anyone kid you into thinking just because you are already retired that you cannot be affected by changes. I won't believe that one until I see it myself and even then, I don't wish to have others make unrealistic sacrifices for me.

### **NEED YOU HELP**

Owing to the great diligence and fiscal restraint of your board of directors, we are poised to undertake funding another project to aid UAB. If you have any ideas, please notify a board member at any of the above-mentioned meetings. A project should have a broad impact and enjoy a long period of contribution. In the past we have purchased Wii systems for Spain Rehabilitation Center that proved to be so popular and beneficial that patients had to be told to STOP over exercising (now that's a great project). We are going to hear about the place of meditation for faculty, staff, patients and visitors at Rehabilitation Medicine that will be constructed in loving memory of Dr. Cecil Nepomuceno. That special place will provide solace for many for a long time to come.

### **MORE HELP FROM YOU**

Please bring a guest to the Spring Seminar and/or to the May Membership Meeting—Member recruitment is always needed!!

See you there, Jack Bradford, Pres.  
UABRA