Obligation, Inc.

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Promoting What Helps Children, Changing What Harms Them

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GROUP ASKS RECIPIENTS OF FREE IRON BOWL TICKETS TO DONATE TO CHARITY

BIRMINGHAM, AL - Obligation, Inc. a Birmingham-based child advocacy organization is asking all state officials who accepted free tickets for this year's Iron Bowl game from Auburn University to do two things:

- 1. Donate at least \$65 per ticket received (face value) to a charity that benefits children before year's end;
- 2. Publicly promise he or she will not accept free or discounted tickets to next year's Iron Bowl from the University of Alabama.

Obligation's president Jim Metrock said, "The practice of giving public officials free Iron Bowl tickets and free parking is outrageous. This 'holiday gift' was not available to average, hard-working Alabamians. These public servants enriched themselves simply because of their office. Some officials may even have sold their tickets for a real cash windfall."

According to Auburn University 446 free Alabama/Auburn tickets were given out to 219 officials and staff.

Metrock said, "Every person who received these tickets should have known how desperate charities are this year. According to <u>Charity Navigator</u>, 86% of nonprofits surveyed in 2009 reported that the economy was having a 'negative' or 'very negative' effect on the services they provide. A charity could have raised thousands of dollars raffling off just two tickets. Instead these well-to-do officials received their own 'Iron Bowl Bailout.'"

Metrock said, "Next November, Obligation will urge potential ticket recipients to refuse Iron Bowl tickets. We'll urge the host school, the University of Alabama, to give free tickets directly to charitable organizations. As long as this distasteful practice continues in our state, Obligation will try to make children the beneficiaries and not politicians."

Obligation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 1995. Obligation seeks to advance public education by researching and reporting on intrusive commercial marketing in public schools. Obligation is a private foundation that is self-funded and does not accept donations. http://www.obligation.org

Recipients of free Iron Bowl tickets:

State Official

State Official

State Official

State Official

State Official

State Official

Dave Avant

Jerry Bassett

Joyce Bigbee

Joseph Borg

Lewis Easterly

Ed Castile

State Official Frank Gitschier State Official 139 legislators (2 each) Norris Green Governor's Office -22 Delivered to: State Official Pat Harris Bryan Taylor 3 State Official Michael Hudson Jeff Emerson 3 State Official Don Ladner Dave Stewart 3 State Official Alva Lambert Ken Wallis 3 State Official McDowell Lee Bob Riley 2 State Official Anne Elizabeth McGowin Elaine LeFleur 3 State Official Maury Mitchell Josh Blades 3 State Official Greg Pappas Sommer Vaughn 2 State Official Glen Pringle State Official Brenda Smith Lt Governor's Office -6 State Official Michael F. Sparks State Official Delivered to: Cvnthia Underwood Jim Folsom, Jr. 3 State Official Donald Williamson Mike Martin 3 State Official Jeff Woodard State Official Joyce Wright Attorney General's Office -4 **David Bronner** Other Other Delivered to: Marcus Reynolds Gov Cabinet Richard Allen Troy King 2 Daniel Morris 2 Gov Cabinet A. C. Blalock Gov Cabinet Nancy T.Buckner Speaker Office - 4 Gov Cabinet Irene Collins Delivered to: Gov Cabinet John Harrison Seth Hammett 2 Gov Cabinet Carol Herrmann-Steckel Jeff Woodard 2 Gov Cabinet John Houston Gov Cabinet Doni Ingram 2 each: Gov Cabinet **Barnett Lawley** ACHE Charles Ball Gov Cabinet **Brock Long** Ralph Buffkin ACHE Gov Cabinet Joe McInnes ACHE Jeff Coleman Gov Cabinet Chris Murphy **ACHE** Thomas P. Davis Gov Cabinet Bill Newton ACHE Philip C. Dotts Gov Cabinet Jim Ridling Larry J. Hughes Gov Cabinet Tim Russell ACHE ACHE Andrew G. Linn Gov Cabinet Lee Sentell ACHE William E. Powell Gov Cabinet Tom Surtees ACHE Stephen Shaw Gov Cabinet Neal Wade Gov Cabinet ACHE Missy Ming Smith Jim Walker Roberta O. Watts Gov Cabinet Ken Wallis [On list twice. Could be ACHE ACHE Ronald W. Wise error.] Gregory G. Fitch ACHE PSC Lucy Baxley **PSC** Jan Cook Source: December 3, 2009 email to Obligation from **PSC** Susan D. Parker AUBURN UNIVERSITY spokesperson Mike Clardy. Judicial Robert G. Esdale Constitutional Beth Chapman Constitutional Kay Ivey Constitutional Samantha Shaw Constitutional Ron Sparks

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