

ALEC EXPOSED

"ALEC" has long been a secretive collaboration between Big Business and "conservative" politicians. Behind closed doors, they ghostwrite "model" bills to be introduced in state capitols across the country. This agenda—underwritten by global corporations—includes major tax loopholes for big industries and the super rich, proposals to offshore U.S. jobs and gut minimum wage, and efforts to weaken public health, safety, and environmental protections. Although many of these bills have become law, until now, their origin has been largely unknown. With **ALEC EXPOSED**, the Center for Media and Democracy hopes more Americans will study the bills to understand the depth and breadth of how big corporations are changing the legal rules and undermining democracy across the nation.

ALEC's Corporate Board --in recent past or present

- AT&T Services, Inc.
 - centerpoint360
 - UPS
 - Bayer Corporation
 - GlaxoSmithKline
 - Energy Future Holdings
 - Johnson & Johnson
 - Coca-Cola Company
 - PhRMA
 - Kraft Foods, Inc.
 - Coca-Cola Co.
 - Pfizer Inc.
 - Reed Elsevier, Inc.
 - DIAGEO
 - Peabody Energy
 - Intuit, Inc.
 - Koch Industries, Inc.
 - ExxonMobil
 - Verizon
 - Reynolds American Inc.
 - Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
 - Salt River Project
 - Altria Client Services, Inc.
 - American Bail Coalition
 - State Farm Insurance
- For more on these corporations, search at www.SourceWatch.org.

DID YOU KNOW? Corporations VOTED to adopt this. Through ALEC, global companies work as "equals" in "unison" with politicians to write laws to govern your life. Big Business has "a VOICE and a VOTE," according to newly exposed documents. **DO YOU?**

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The Balanced Budget Amendment Resolution

Summary

It took the United States 205 years to fall \$1 trillion in debt. By the end of 1992, the national debt was over \$4 trillion. Each baby born in the United States today enters the world owing \$16,000 on the federal debt. This year alone the average family of four will pay \$3,300 in taxes just to cover the interest owed on the federal debt. Interest on the federal debt now composes 14% of the total budget. If the deficit continues at this rate of growth, interest payments on the debt will continue to dissolve the federal budget.

This resolution calls on the U.S. Congress to adopt a Constitutional amendment requiring an annual balanced federal budget or as an alternative, calls for a Constitutional Convention as provided by Article V of the U.S. Constitution to propose a Constitutional amendment requiring an annual balanced federal budget.

Model Legislation

{Title, enacting clause, etc.}

A RESOLUTION for the purpose of petitioning the Congress of the United States to adopt an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states, to require, with certain exceptions, that the federal budget be balanced; or, in the alternative, to call a convention for the sole and exclusive purpose of proposing such an amendment for submission to the states for ratification.

WHEREAS with each passing year this nation becomes deeply in debt as its expenditures grossly and repeatedly exceed available revenues so that the public debt now exceeds four trillion dollars; and

WHEREAS attempts to limit spending, including the impoundment of funds by the President of the United States, have resulted in strenuous assertions that the responsibility for appropriations is the constitutional duty of the Congress; and

WHEREAS the annual federal budget repeatedly demonstrates the unwillingness or inability of both the legislative and executive branches of the Federal government to curtail spending to conform to available revenues; and

WHEREAS the unified budget does not reflect actual spending because of the exclusion of special outlays which are not in the budget; and

WHEREAS knowledgeable planning and fiscal prudence require that the budget reflect all federal spending and that the budget be in balance; and

WHEREAS believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is one of the greatest economic threats which faces our nation, we firmly believe that constitutional restraint is necessary to bring the fiscal discipline needed to reverse this trend; and

WHEREAS under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, amendments to the U.S. Constitution may be proposed by the Congress whenever two-thirds of both Houses deem it necessary, or on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states the Congress shall call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing amendments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the legislature of the state, a majority of all members of the two houses, voting separately, concurring herein, that the Congress of the United States of America is hereby petitioned to adopt an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for each fiscal year the president of the United States submit and the Congress of the United States adopt a balanced federal budget; or, in the alternative,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective [insert date] that pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the legislature of the state makes application to the Congress of the United States of America to call a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for each fiscal year the president of the United States submit and the Congress of the United States adopt a balanced federal budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if Congress adopts, within 90 days after the

Did you know that the Evergreen Freedom Foundation --which is connected to the Kochs-- was the corporate co-chair in 2011?"

legislatures of two-thirds of the states have made application for such convention, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that contained in this resolution, then this application for a convention shall no longer be of any force or effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this application and request be deemed null and void, rescinded, and of no effect in the event that such convention not be limited to the aforementioned specific and exclusive purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this application shall be deemed null and void, rescinded, and of no effect in the event the U.S. Supreme Court rules that a convention cannot be limited to the subject stated in 34 such applications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this application by this legislature constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until at least two-thirds of the Legislatures of the several states have made application for a similar convention pursuant to Article V or the Congress has proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the United States similar in subject matter to that contained in this Joint Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Joint Resolution be transmitted by the Secretary of State to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of this state's delegation to the Congress and to the presiding officer of each house of each state legislature in the United States.

ALEC's Sourcebook of American State Legislation 1995

About Us and **ALEC EXPOSED**. The Center for Media and Democracy reports on corporate spin and government propaganda. We are located in Madison, Wisconsin, and publish www.PRWatch.org, www.SourceWatch.org, and now www.ALECexposed.org. For more information contact: editor@prwatch.org or 608-260-9713.