

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.

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 Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere Act

Did you know that global corporation Kraft Foods was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

Summary

(1) Under existing federal law, the so-called HOME programs and the Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere (HOPE) program, which are part of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, provide funding for homeownership programs for specified persons and entities that receive matching funding, as specified, from non-federal sources.

It is the intent of the legislature that this bill provide a mechanism for (insert state) to fulfill the non-federal matching funds requirements of the federal HOME and HOPE programs.

The bill would authorize local government agencies to exempt, for a period of up to 20 years, specified projects receiving funding pursuant to the federal HOME and HOPE programs from local taxes, fees, or assessments. The bill would also authorize redevelopment agencies to participate in federal projects that receive the federal funding and would authorize the (insert the state Housing Insurance Fund or other appropriate state housing authority's fund) to use its resources to assist specified entities that receive the federal funding.

(2) The bill would require on or before (insert date) that the Affordable Housing Task Force, created by the bill in the (Department of Housing and Community Development or other appropriate agency) with membership as specified, submit a written report to the legislature regarding ways in which state housing programs may be restructured in order to benefit the greatest number of citizens by obtaining maximum federal funding under the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, with particular attention to be paid to the federal HOME and HOPE programs.

Model Legislation

Section 1. (A) The legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) in 1990, the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act was enacted by the Congress and President of the United States as Public Law 101-625. The Act affirms as a national goal that every American family be able to afford a decent home in a suitable environment.

(2) Titles II and IV of the National Affordable Housing Act enacted the HOME programs and the Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere (HOPE) program, respectively. A requirement of the HOME and HOPE legislation is that a portion of the funding for each recipient project shall be matched by funds from non-federal sources in order to carry out the homeownership program.

(B) In enacting this chapter, it is therefore the intent of the legislature to provide a mechanism for (insert state) to fulfill the non-federal matching funds requirements.

Section 2. (A) Local government agencies may exempt, for a period of up to 20 years, from local taxes, fees, or assessments either of the following types of entities:

(1) multifamily projects that are either nonprofit or limited equity cooperatives and that qualify for, and receive, federal aid under either Title II of IV of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act.

(2) multifamily limited equity cooperatives that qualify for, and receive, federal aid under either Title II of IV of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act.

(B) The (insert the state housing insurance fund or the appropriate state housing authority's fund) may use its resources to assist nonprofit corporations exempt from federal income taxes pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, redevelopment agencies, local finance agencies, and for-profit corporations that receive funding pursuant to either Title II of IV of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act.

Section 3. (A) The Affordable Housing Task Force is hereby created in the (insert the Department of Housing and Community Development or other appropriate department) to report on methods by which state housing programs may be restructured in order to benefit the greatest number of citizens by obtaining maximum federal funding under the

ALEC's Corporate Board

--in recent past or present

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- Altria Client Services, Inc.
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For more on these corporations, search at www.SourceWatch.org.

Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act and, particularly, under Titles II and IV there. As a part of the report, the Treasurer shall study how the state bond programs can be counted as part of the non-federal match and how they might specifically fund the HOME and HOPE programs.

(B) The members of the task force shall include (list appropriate members). The task force shall meet as deemed necessary by the chairperson.

(C) Each member of the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties to the extent that reimbursement is not otherwise provided by another public agency.

(D) The task force may request data from, and shall utilize the technical expertise of, other state agencies.

(E) On or before (Insert date), the task force shall submit its written report to the legislature.

Section 4. {Severability clause.}

Section 5. {Repealer clause.}

Section 6. {Effective date.}

Were your
laws repealed?

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