

**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](http://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?**

Home → [Model Legislation](#) → Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development

**Access to Financial Services for Unbanked and Underbanked Consumers**

**WHEREAS**, there is a substantial population of American consumers that do not have access to traditional sources of consumer credit or banking services, and

**WHEREAS**, consumers that do not have or maintain traditional bank accounts are considered "Unbanked", and

**WHEREAS**, consumers that have limited or insufficient credit files are considered financially "Underbanked", and

**WHEREAS**, estimates indicate that over 75 million American consumers are considered to be Underbanked or Unbanked, and

**WHEREAS**, this constitutes approximately one out of every three adult consumers, and

**WHEREAS**, financial products and financial companies serving these consumers, and laws governing both those transactions and the practices of those companies, have evolved substantially since the mid-1990's, and

**WHEREAS**, the economic development potential of the United States and each State and its communities is limited by the large number of Unbanked or Underbanked consumers, and

**WHEREAS**, the access to traditional installment credit, secured and unsecured, as well as mainstream financial services is a key enabler to wealth for all Americans, and

**WHEREAS**, many states have not had a comprehensive review of their various lending laws and whether they foster availability and access of responsible personal installment lending, utilize sources of financial literacy, or leverage the favorable changes that have occurred in the national marketplace in products, business practices, credit information and operations technology, and

**WHEREAS**, the states have the responsibility to provide adequate consumer protection, to encourage economic development, and to provide the regulatory framework necessary for financial services organizations to operate.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) supports the efforts of States to bring financial service choices to the Unbanked and Underbanked consumer by:

1. Reviewing the respective academic or economic studies, consumer protection laws and corporate best practices for consumer installment finance; and
2. Investigating the potential of whether business models and regulatory economic incentives could serve to transition and graduate consumers from sub-prime to prime credit scores resulting in increased chances that they may accumulate wealth; and
3. Determining whether the lending process is understandable, fair, and efficient and that optimum disclosures show terms and conditions so that consumers can understand the product being offered and make a comparison or reasoned decision; and
4. Identifying the economic impact of raising credit scores and also requiring wider reporting and creditor consideration of payments for alternative "credit- like" accounts, such as rent or utilities to major credit bureaus; and
5. Determining the impact and availability of financial education or incentives to raise personal financial literacy, as well as personal credit or financial counseling by companies providing the customer financial services; and
6. Determining the appropriate regulatory mechanism where consumers will benefit from the fostering of a market-based, competitive business environment.

Did you know that global corporation Kraft Foods served as corporate co-chair in 2011?

*Adopted by the CIED Task Force at the States and Nation Policy Summit, December 8, 2007. Approved by the ALEC Board of Directors January 2008.*

**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](http://www.PRWatch.org), [www.SourceWatch.org](http://www.SourceWatch.org), and now [www.ALECexposed.org](http://www.ALECexposed.org). For more information contact: [editor@prwatch.org](mailto:editor@prwatch.org) or 608-260-9713.