

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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Resolution on Expanding Access to Health Insurance

Did you know that global pharmaceutical company Bayer Healthcare was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

WHEREAS, {insert state legislative body here} finds that access to health insurance is important to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, {insert state legislative body here} finds that the citizens of {insert state here} should be able to choose from a wide variety of plans that ensure health insurance is affordable; and

WHEREAS, {insert state legislative body here} finds that many citizens of {insert state here} either do not have access to health insurance or can not afford to purchase it; and

WHEREAS, {insert state legislative body here} finds that state legislators can have a profound impact on the affordability, accessibility, and availability of health insurance; and

WHEREAS, {insert state legislative body here} finds that a free market in health insurance:

- Provides consumers with a broad range of affordable health insurance options,
- Promotes competition,
- Keeps health insurance premium rates low, and
- Helps the uninsured get and keep health insurance; and

WHEREAS, {insert state legislative body here} finds that legislators can help consumers find affordable health insurance by promoting free-market solutions, including:

- Health savings accounts which have helped millions of the uninsured find an affordable health insurance product,
- Small group premium subsidies which help very small businesses provide insurance to employees,
- List billing which allows employees to purchase individual health insurance through payroll deductions,
- Underwriting which allows health insurers to price risks appropriately,
- High risk pools which provide access to insurance for individuals with chronic conditions,
- Mandate-lite health insurance which provides consumers with an affordable health insurance option,
- Plan design freedom which allows health insurers to design plans that meet consumer needs like limited benefit plans or innovative plan designs,
- Tax deductions which can help make insurance more affordable, and
- Health insurance vouchers which allow the working poor to choose their own benefit plans rather than a government-designed, one-size-fits-all approach; and

WHEREAS, {insert state legislative body here} finds that many states have increased health insurance costs by instituting policies that harm consumers, including:

- Requiring health insurers to include numerous expensive mandated benefits in policies sold to consumers,
- Instituting price controls like community rating which raise overall health insurance rates for everyone,
- Limiting consumer options in the individual market by limiting the ability of health insurers to design health insurance plans, and
- Requiring health insurance companies in the individual market to accept all applicants which raises health insurance costs; and

WHEREAS, {insert state legislative body here} finds that many well-intentioned reforms have actually harmed consumers in several ways, including:

- Contributing to health insurance premiums that are unaffordable to many Americans,
- Eliminating consumer choice, and
- Increasing the number of citizens who are uninsured.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT {insert state legislative body here} finds free-market-based solutions, unfettered by burdensome government regulation, are the best way to provide consumers with access to innovative and affordable health insurance options, which both reduce the number of the uninsured and alleviate the dependence of our most vulnerable members of society on one-size-fits-all, government-subsidized health care programs.

Adopted by the Health and Human Services Task Force at the States and Nation Policy Summit on December 9, 2006. Approved by the ALEC Board of Directors January 8, 2007.

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.

Center for Media and
Democracy's quick summary

This Resolution advocates for a "Free Market" approach to health care (as opposed to government-provided health care). It opposes government efforts at providing health care in favor of expanding the pool of consumers for private insurance companies