

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.

& MEETINGS

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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Hearsay in Public Hearings Act

Did you know the NRA--the National Rifle Association--was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

Summary

This Act would allow courts to admit evidence from a victim or witness without the actual presence of a victim or witness in proceedings or hearings in which the court is determining if probable cause exists to believe a crime was committed.

Model Legislation

{Title, enacting clause, etc.}

Section 1. {Title} This Act may be cited as the Hearsay in Public Hearings Act.

Section 2. {Admissibility of hearsay in preliminary proceedings} In connection with a criminal case, where the issue to be determined is whether probable cause exists to believe the defendant has committed the crime, **hearsay evidence shall be admissible**, and the finding of probable cause may be based upon hearsay evidence in whole or in part. No victim or witness shall be required to appear unless the court, in light of the evidence and arguments submitted by the parties, determines that the appearance of the victim or witness likely would lead to a finding that there is no probable cause, or unless other compelling circumstances exist.

Section 3. {Severability clause}

Section 4. {Repealer clause}

Section 5. {Effective date}

ALEC's Sourcebook of American State Legislation 1995

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.

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 is a bill aimed at rolling-back constitutional protections in criminal justice, specifically common law rules aimed at deterring police misconduct (see also "Exclusionary Rule Act"). Hearsay is already admissible when a judge is deciding whether probable cause exists to issue an arrest warrant. This bill instead would apply at trial, in determining whether the original search, arrest, or entry was justified. This bill would allow the admission of hearsay evidence in determining whether probable cause originally existed, essentially denying the accused his or her constitutional rights to confront his or her accusers and cross-examine witnesses against him or her.