

Search GO

ABOUT MEMBERS EVENTS & MEETINGS
NEWS

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?**

Resolution in Favor of Non-Bank Consumer Anti-Profiling Protection

WHEREAS, approximately 25 million Americans obtain loans at more than 15,000 pawnshops across the United States to meet their emergency financial needs; and

WHEREAS, state legislatures have enacted statutes requiring pawnbrokers to make and keep transaction records that include personal information about each customer and a description of the property pledged to secure payment of the pawn loaned or sold to the pawnbroker; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of property that law enforcement claims to be stolen has been reduced to less than one-tenth of one percent of items pledged or sold to pawnbrokers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the focus of law enforcement has now shifted from identification and recovery of stolen property to identification and profiling of consumers; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement increasingly uses technology to profile pawn customers based on their gender, name, age, residence zip code, and frequency of pawn transactions; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement data-mining and profiling practices afford pawn customers less protection against unreasonable searches and warrant-less property seizures than they are guaranteed under the United States Constitution, federal privacy laws, and state constitutions; and

WHEREAS, unless curtailed by appropriate legislation, data-mining and profiling is likely to increase dramatically, further eroding constitutional and statutory privacy protections.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ALEC Criminal Justice Task Force should draft, sponsor, and work toward passage of model legislation designed to limit the receipt of personal information obtained during the course of financial or commercial information to (1) circumstances covered by the federal Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978, the federal Bank Secrecy Act, or the USA PATRIOT Act; (2) circumstances when an enforcement agency establishes a nexus between a property crime and the individual consumer by opening a formal investigation; or (3) cases in which law enforcement obtains a properly authorized subpoena or the pawnbroker responds to a court order or grand jury subpoena.

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

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.

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.