

How corporations undermine the rights of injured Americans

These ALEC bills try to change Americans' rights by:

- [Making it harder for injured people to use class action rules](#) that can expose the widespread harms of dangerous products and strengthen the negotiating power of injured people
- Limiting corporate financial liability through changing the rules for [apportioning fault](#)
- Making it easier for corporations to get a judge to dismiss an injured American's case *before* it gets to a jury by:
 - [Barring the case by saying the injured person assumed the risk](#),
 - Changing the rules about *where* injured Americans can sue through changes to [court rules](#), including rules that limit people from [multiple states](#) joining as plaintiffs
 - [Altering rules](#) to summarily dismiss the case before trial,
- [Requiring medical malpractice lawsuits be filtered by doctors and the hospital industry](#)
- Deterring lawsuits by:
 - [making it harder for injured people to bring suits based on limited information](#) about how an accident occurred, information that could be discovered using tools available to after a suit is filed,
 - [Punishing](#) injured Americans by requiring they pay corporate attorneys' fees if a jury award is not significantly larger than an earlier offer of settlement,
 - [Barring injured Americans from getting any damages from corporations whose products injure them if products are subject to government regulation](#), and giving manufacturers a [defense against liability if their product met governmental standards](#), even though many regulatory agencies have been captured by the industries being regulated, many of the same industries pushing these bills.
 - [Making it more difficult](#) to introduce new scientific research in injury cases through expert witnesses by requiring states to follow federal expert rules that corporations favor,
- Limiting the power of Congress to create national rules to protect Americans, no matter their state residence, if injured by defective corporate products distributed nationally,
- [Limiting punitive damages](#) designed to deter wrongdoing that kills or harms a person. (See also [here](#).)
- [Limiting "noneconomic damages," like pain and suffering.](#)

To see a full list of these bills, [click here](#)