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