

## 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](http://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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### Higher Education Sunshine Act

**Section 1. Short Title.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Higher Education Sunshine Act."

**Section 2. Definitions.** As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(A) "Intellectual diversity" is defined as the foundation of a learning environment that exposes students to a variety of political, ideological, religious, and other perspectives, when such perspectives relate to the subject matter being taught or issues being discussed.

**Section 3. Annual Report.** The [Board of Trustees, Regents, state coordinating council] shall require each public institution under its control to report annually to the Legislature detailing the steps the institution is taking to ensure intellectual diversity and the free exchange of ideas.

(A) The report required in this subsection shall address the specific measures taken by the institution to ensure and promote intellectual diversity and academic freedom. The report may include steps taken by the institution to:

(1) Conduct a study to assess the current state of intellectual diversity on its campus;

(2) Incorporate intellectual diversity into institution statements, grievance procedures, and activities on diversity;

(3) Encourage a diverse variety of campus-wide panels and speakers and annually publish the names of panelists and speakers;

(4) Establish clear campus policies that ensure that hecklers or threats of violence do not prevent speakers from speaking;

(5) Include intellectual diversity concerns in the institution's guidelines on teaching and program development;

(6) Include intellectual diversity issues in student course evaluations;

(7) Develop hiring, tenure, and promotion policies that protect individuals against viewpoint discrimination and track any reported grievances in that regard;

(8) Establish clear campus policies to ensure freedom of the press for students and report any incidents of student newspaper thefts or destruction;

(9) Establish clear campus policies to prohibit viewpoint discrimination in the distribution of student fee funds;

(10) Eliminate any speech codes that unduly restrict the freedom of speech; or

(11) Create an institutional ombudsman on intellectual diversity, or specifically charge an existing ombudsman with monitoring the state of intellectual diversity.

(B) The report shall be distributed to the members of the Legislature no later than December thirty-first of each year.

(1) The report shall be posted on each public higher education institution's web site.

**Section 4. {Repealer Clause.}**

**Section 5. {Effective Date.}**

Were your laws repealed?

Did you know that an online for-profit school company was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

#### Related Files

[Higher Education Sunshine Act](#) (Microsoft Word Document)

**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](http://www.PRWatch.org), [www.SourceWatch.org](http://www.SourceWatch.org), and now [www.ALECExposed.org](http://www.ALECExposed.org). For more information contact: [editor@prwatch.org](mailto:editor@prwatch.org) or 608-260-9713.

From CMD: This "model" bill attempts to require "intellectual diversity" to protect against the imposition of any political, ideological, or religious orthodoxy. These protections are framed neutrally but they emerge in the context of continuing critique from the right-wing that universities are too "liberal" or hostile to religious or "conservative" or religiously fundamentalist points of view. Notably, the bill exempts private colleges from these legal obligations. It also seeks to impose a requirement that professors be evaluated based on "intellectual diversity." It is also condemnatory toward protests of speakers expressing disfavored views, which might have the effect of obstructing such speakers. It also may have the effect of establishing a kind of affirmative action toward including fundamentalist or right-wing academics on campus in order to satisfy the dictates of required intellectual diversity. It also empowers an ombudsperson to help enforce the mandate of intellectual diversity.