



What is ALEC and How Does It Impact Public Education?

What started as a conservative alternative to the National Conference of State Legislators in 1973 as the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), where state legislators and business men and women could convene and take a more reined in approach to government than the prevailing mood or practice, has blossomed into a full-fledged, state-oriented national legislative service bureau.

ALEC's origins emanated both from the Nixon and Reagan Administrations, which were frustrated by what they saw as the "we've always done it that way" government mentality, and were nurtured by a Who's Who of conservative icons:

- **Paul Weyrich**, who was instrumental in the re-election of Richard Nixon and the founding of the Heritage Foundation
- **John Kasich**, Governor of Ohio, former U.S. House Budget Committee Chairman, and Ohio State Senator
- **John M. Engler**, President of the Business Roundtable, three-term Michigan Governor, and Michigan State Senator and Representative
- **Tommy Thompson**, former Secretary of Health and Human Services and Wisconsin Governor, currently running in the Wisconsin Republican primary for the U.S. Senate
- **Bob Kasten**, former U.S. Senator and Congressman from Wisconsin
- **Terry Branstad**, current and former Iowa Governor
- **James L. Buckley**, former U.S. Senator from New York
- **Jesse Helms**, former U.S. Senator from North Carolina
- **Phil Crane**, former Congressman from Illinois

Today ALEC researches a broad range of educational, labor, international relations, civil justice, commerce, insurance, economic development, technology, energy, environmental, agricultural, health and human services, and tax and fiscal policy issues and drafts model legislation that governors and state legislators swoop up lock, stock and barrel, introduce and act on.

Education Governance a Cornerstone of ALEC's Agenda

As education is a foremost topic of ALEC, the list of education topics it has tackled is long and varied. From alternatives to public education to teacher tenure, teacher certification, teacher evaluation, collective bargaining, curriculum, funding, special education, student assessment and many more, plus others that affect the education business or culture. Local school board governance is a special target of ALEC. To see ALEC model legislation for education issues, go to http://www.alecexposed.org/wiki/ALEC_Exposed and

<http://www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQlwG&b=8072485>.

In a March 2012 piece in Phi Delta Kappa's Kappan Magazine <http://www.kappanmagazine.org/content/93/6/51.full.pdf+html>, co-authored by former NSBA General Counsel and current University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-M) Dean of the School of Education Julie Underwood, and Julie F. Mead, Professor and Chair of the (UW-M) Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, they noted that privatization of public education – through vouchers, tax incentives for sending children to private schools, and charter schools operated by for-profit entities -- has been a long-standing objective of ALEC. According to Wisconsin State Assemblyman Mark Pocan, who attended a 2011 ALEC meeting, Florida, Indiana and New Jersey are model states for conservative policies to emulate in education. The Kappan piece also especially singled out local school boards:

“Common throughout the bills are proposals to decrease local control of schools by democratically elected school boards while increasing Access to all facets of education to private entities and corporations.”

The reduction of the influence of local school districts and school boards or their outright elimination is the goal of several pieces of model legislation ALEC promotes, such as the Charter Schools Act, Innovation Schools and School Districts Act, Open Enrollment Act, Virtual Public Schools Act, and the Next Generation Charter Schools Act. Also on the state legislative front, the Kappan article chronicled the specific path of the model Virtual Public Schools Act in Tennessee. There, two large for-profit providers of virtual education, Connections Academy and K-12, Inc., played a large role in the model bill's creation through their ALEC affiliation. Two Tennessee state legislators, who are ALEC members of the Education Task Force, introduced the bill in the House and Senate in an almost word-for-word version of the ALEC proposal. The bill passed both houses, and shortly afterward K-12, Inc. won a no-bid contract to create the Tennessee Virtual Academy. Also, the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program legislation was based on a rubric in the 1985 ALEC Education Source Book, and in 2011 attempts to remove all income requirements for participating students in Milwaukee were framed in ALEC's Parental Choice Scholarship Program Act. That act was also the model for a voucher program enacted most recently in Indiana, the Choice Scholarship Program. ALEC strongly warns state legislators not to put all their “eggs in one basket” in one all-encompassing bill, but rather to introduce a dozen or more bills at once—as was done in Florida with 14 -- so that the opposition may be diverted.

ALEC Writes and Influences State Legislation

During its 39 years of existence ALEC claims to have provided models to states for almost 1,000 enacted bills. As a result, ALEC touts itself as the “state legislators’ think tank,” and “the only” state legislative organization that “adopts policies and creates model legislation for its members.” It draws 2,000 state legislators or attendees in any given year to its meetings, with 40-50 percent being legislators and 50-60 percent corporate and conservative interests. This is where state lawmakers may rub elbows with corporate giants and conservative gurus. It also claims as many as a third of all state legislators nationwide, for the most part Republicans, as members of its legislative outreach network. Membership is obligatory to attend ALEC's confabs. How does ALEC take on this myriad of topics? The issues are tackled by what is termed “public-private task forces” made up of legislators, lobbyists, business people, association representatives and others, and each co-chaired by both a state legislator and corporate leader. Model legislation emerging from task force work must be supported by a majority of votes from both the legislator attendees as well as the corporate members. Recently the ALEC board vetoed an Education Task Force decision to reject the Common Core State Standards.

According to the ALEC website <alec.org>:

“ALEC’s national Task Forces serve as public-policy laboratories where legislators develop model policies to use across the country. The eight Task Forces commission research, publish issue papers, convene workshops and issue alerts, and serve as clearinghouses of information on free market policies in the states.

Unique to ALEC Task Forces is the public-private partnership, a synergistic alliance that identifies issues and then responds with common sense, results-oriented policies. Legislators welcome their private sector counterparts to the table as equals, working in unison to solve the challenges facing our nation.

The centerpiece to the Task Forces is ALEC’s model legislation. To date, ALEC has considered, written, and approved hundreds of model bills, resolutions, and policy statements...”

ALEC’s theme is free-market, limited government, and its focus is on 10 initiatives: the Center for State Fiscal Reform; cutting crime and budgets; the Environmental Protection Agency’s “regulatory train wreck;” expanding the law under the “new restatement of torts;” federal relations; the Health Care Freedom Initiative; international trade, prison overcrowding, “restore the balance;” and “sunshine” in state attorney contracts.”

ALEC holds two primary meetings yearly, its annual meeting, to be held July 25-28 this year in Salt Lake City; and the States and Nation Policy Summit from November 28-30 in Washington, D.C. Task Forces are convened throughout the year.

ALEC Grades Public Education

Of particular interest to NSBA is ALEC’s “Report Card on American Education,”<http://www.alec.org/publications/report-card-on-american-education/> now in its 17th edition. It is described on their website as a “comprehensive overview of education achievement levels for 50 states and D.C., and what education policies states currently have in place and provides a roadmap for legislators to follow to bring about education excellence in their state” This report ranks the states as follows:

Report Card on American Education

	Performance Rank		Education Policy Grade	
1.	Massachusetts	‘	A-	Missouri
2.	Vermont	‘	B+	Florida
3.	New Jersey	‘	B+	Minnesota
4.	Colorado	‘	B	Arizona
5.	Pennsylvania	‘	B	California
6.	Rhode Island	‘	B	Colorado
7.	North Carolina	‘	B	District of Columbia
8.	Kansas	‘	B	Georgia
9.	New Hampshire	‘	B	Indiana

10.	New York	'	B	New Mexico
11.	Texas	'	B	Ohio
12.	Florida	'	B	Oklahoma
13.	Hawaii	'	B	Utah
14.	Maine	'	B-	Alaska
15.	Nevada	'	B-	Idaho
16.	Montana	'	B-	Louisiana
17.	Indiana	'	B-	Massachusetts
18.	Minnesota	'	B-	Michigan
19.	Wisconsin	'	B-	New Jersey
20.	Maryland	'	B-	Wisconsin
21.	Ohio	'	C+	Connecticut
22.	Delaware	'	C+	Delaware
23.	Wyoming	'	C+	Hawaii
24.	District of Columbia	'	C+	Illinois
25.	Washington	'	C+	Nevada
26.	Virginia	'	C+	New Hampshire
27.	Georgia	'	C+	Pennsylvania
28.	Illinois	'	C+	South Carolina
29.	Idaho	'	C+	Texas
30.	California	'	C+	Wyoming
31.	Iowa	'	C	Arkansas
32.	Alaska	'	C	Kentucky
33.	North Dakota	'	C	Mississippi
34.	Alabama	'	C	Montana
35.	New Mexico	'	C	North Carolina
36.	Arizona	'	C	Oregon
37.	Kentucky	'	C	Rhode Island
38.	South Dakota	'	C	Tennessee
39.	Connecticut	'	C	Washington
40.	Oregon	'	C-	Iowa
41.	Utah	'	C-	Kansas
42.	Nebraska	'	C-	Maine
43.	Oklahoma	'	C-	Maryland
44.	Tennessee	'	C-	New York
45.	Arkansas	'	C-	South Dakota
46.	Michigan	'	C-	Virginia
47.	Missouri	'	D+	Alabama
48.	Mississippi	'	D+	Nebraska
49.	Louisiana	'	D+	North Dakota
50.	South Carolina	'	D+	Vermont

Overall the ALEC education agenda focuses on:

- Introducing market factors in schools, particularly the teaching profession
- Privatizing education through vouchers, charters and tax incentives
- Increasing student testing and reporting
- Reducing the influence of or eliminating local school districts and school boards

Because vouchers are a primary ALEC goal, to assist states in taking steps toward adopting them, the organization published School Choice and State Constitutions (Komer & Neily, 2007). States that subsequently adopted ALEC recommendations include Arizona, Indiana, Georgia, Louisiana and Oklahoma. This privatization goal is intended to segregate schools by academic ability and disability, ethnicity, economics, language and culture.

Kappan article authors Underwood and Mead suggest that champions of public education henceforth should pose the following questions when legislation is introduced:

- *Is the sponsor a member of ALEC?*
- *Does the bill borrow from ALEC model legislation?*
- *What corporations had a hand in drafting the legislation?*
- *What interests would benefit or even profit from the bill's passage?*

Other ALEC Issue Areas

Other reports ALEC has done concentrate on an overview of the organization itself, Environmental Protection Agency reform, post employee benefit plans, a comparison of "rich and poor" states, state budget reform, a State Legislator's Guide to Repeal of Obamacare, and critical questions legislators should ask about higher education in their state.

The 26-member ALEC Board of Directors is led by a Chairman, currently Representative Dave Frizzell of Indiana, and has members from Wisconsin, Utah, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Colorado, Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, Arkansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Georgia, South Carolina, Kansas, Nevada, Ohio, Tennessee, New York and Texas, and Indiana.

ALEC also has a five- member Board of Scholars that honors distinguished work and presumably provides a conduit for their work to be used by ALEC. It is led by Dr. Arthur Laffer, Chairman of Laffer Associates, an economic research and consulting firm. Other members are Stephen Moore, member of the Wall Street Journal editorial board and senior economics writer, who divides his time between Washington and New York; Victor Schwartz, partner in the Washington office of the Kansas City-based law firm of Shook, Hardy and Bacon, LLP., and general counsel to the American Tort Reform Association;

Dr. Arthur Vedder, Distinguished Professor of Economics at The Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and also a current consultant to the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress; and Bob Williams, founder and Senior Fellow of the Evergreen Freedom Foundation, a public policy organization in Olympia, Washington.

Perhaps what is most instructive about ALEC is the list of U.S. businesses that fund its activities and compose its “private partner” membership. They participate at various levels in terms of monetary and support contributions. Corporate members may also contribute to states’ scholarship funds, set up to reimburse legislators who travel to the ALEC meetings. ALEC meetings, paid for by corporate sponsors, have been described by attendees as “nothing short of lavish.”

Membership Levels

Presidential - \$100,000

Chairman - \$50,000

Vice Chairman - \$25,000

Director - \$10,000

Washington Club – \$7,000

Madison Club – \$12,000

Jefferson Club – \$25,000

Legislator - \$100 for two year membership

Businesses That Pay to be on the ALEC Corporate Board

Altria Group American Bail Coalition AT&T Bayer Corporation Center Point 360 Diageo EnergyFuture Holdings	ExxonMobil Corporation GlaxoSmithKline Intuit, Inc. Johnson & Johnson Koch Companies Public Sector Peabody Energy Pfizer Inc.	PhRMA Reynolds American Salt River Project State Farm Insurance Co. United Parcel Service
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For-Profit Corporations that Pay Dues to ALEC

Abbott Laboratories Accredited Surety & Casualty	Energy Environmental Management Corporation	Pennzoil Co. Pepco Holdings
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Company Inc.	Excel Telecommunications	Pfizer Inc.
Alcoa Recycling	Executone	PFL Life Insurance Company
Alexander & Baldwin Inc.	Express Scripts	PG&E Corporation
Alkermes, Inc.	ExxonMobil Corporation	Pharmacia & Upjohn
Allergan	EZ Corp	Phelps Dodge Corp.
Alliant Utilities	Farmers Group, Inc.	Philip Morris Companies (now Altria)
AlliedSignal	FedEx	Phillips 66 Petroleum
Altria Group	Fidelity Investments	Pinnacle West Capital
Amazon.com	Fieldstead & Co.	Pioneer Financial Services
Ameren CIPS	First Chicago NBD	Placer Dome US Inc. (now part of Barrick Gold)
AmerenUE	Fleet Bank	PNC Mortgage Corp. of America
American Chambers Life Insurance	Florida Gas Transmission Co.	Portland General Electric
American Cyanimid Co.	Florida Power Corp.	Progress Energy
American Electric Power	Ford Motor Co.	Promus Companies (hotel management company that owned Holiday Inn and later Doubletree and Harrah's and is now owned by Hilton Hotels)
American Express Company	Fort Howard Corp.	Prudential Financial
American Home Products Corp	Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold	Publix Super Markets
American Medical Security	Fremont Company	Purdue Pharma
American Republic Insurance Co.	Fremont Pacific Compensation Insurance Group	QEP Resources
American Stores-Jewel/OSCO	Frito-Lay Inc.	Raytheon Company
American West Airlines	Fruit of the Loom (a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway)	Repco
Amerigroup Corporation	Houston Industries	ResCare
Amgen Inc.	Honeywell	Reynolds American
Amerisure-Michigan Mutual	Humana Corporation	Rhone-Poulenc Rorer
Ameritech	Hunt Guillot & Associates	Roadway Services
Amex Life Assurance Co.	Hutchinson	Robert Huff Designs
Amoco Corporation	Gates Corp.	R.R. Donnelley & Sons
Amway Corporation	Gaylord Container	Rural/Metro Corp.
Amwest Surety Insurance Co. I	GEICO	Ryder Systems, Inc.
Anheuser-Busch Companies Inc.	Genentech, Inc.	Safety-Kleen Corp
AOL	General Electric	Salt River Project
Apotex Corp.	General Electric Capital Systems	Sandoz Corp.
Archer Daniels Midland	General Mills Restaurants	Sanofi-Sanofi-Aventis
ARCO	General Motors Corporation	San Diego Gas & Electric
Arduin, Laffer & Moore	Genesee & Wyoming Inc.	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.
Ecometrics	George K. Baum & Company	
Argosy Gaming Co.	Georgia-Pacific	
Arizona Public Service Company		

Artemis Exploration	Gerber Products	SAP America
Arthur Anderson	GlaxoSmithKline	Sara Lee Corporation
ASARCO	Golden Rule Insurance	SBC Communications, Inc.
Ashland Oil	Great West Life Assurance Co.	SCANA Corp.
Associated Bond & Insurance Agency	Growmark	Schering-Plough (since acquired by Merck)
Astellas Pharma US, Inc.	Grumman Data Systems	Schwan's Sales Enterprises Inc.
AstraZeneca and Merck	GTE Corporation (now Verizon)	Security Finance Corporation
AT&T	GTECH Corp.	Sempra Energy
Atmos Energy	Guarantee Trust Life Insurance	Shaklee Corp.
Baltimore Gas and Electric Co.	Gulf States Toyota	Shell Oil Company
Bank of America	Hancor, Inc. (now part of Advanced Drainage Systems)	Sierra Pacific Power Co. (now NV Energy)
Bankers Insurance Co.	Hanover Insurance Co.	SmithKline Beecham (now GlaxoSmithKline)
Barrick Gold Corporation	Harris Deville & Associates	Solvay Pharmaceutical
Baxter Healthcare Corporation	Harris Trust and Savings Bank	Sony Corp.
Bayer Corp.	Henkel	Southern California Edison
Bell Atlantic (also Bell Atlantic PA and WV)	Hiram Walker & Sons Inc. (now owned by Pernod Ricard)	Southern Company
BellSouth Corp.	Hoechst-Roussel Pharmaceutical Corporation	Southern Pacific Transportation Co.
BellSouth South Carolina	Hoffman-La Roche/Hoffman-LaRoche, Inc.	Southwest Ambulance
Beneficial Management Corp.	Hollywood Casino Corp.	Southwestern Bell Corp.
BI Incorporated	Homestake Mining Co. (now part of Barrick Gold Corp.)	Southwire Co.
BNSF Railway Company	Household International	Spectra Energy
Boehringer Ingelheim	IBM	Sprint/United Telephone Company of Texas (now Spring Nextel)
Boeing Corporation	Illinois Power Company	State Farm Insurance Co.
Boyd Gaming Corp.	Illinois Tool Works	State Net
BP America, Inc.	Imperial Chemical Industries Pharmaceuticals	Strategic Advocacy Group
Bridgepoint Education	Independence Mining Co.	Sun Company Inc. Sundstrand Corporation
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Industrial Biotechnology Association	Symantec Corporation
Brown-Forman Corporation	Inland Steel Industries	Syntex Corp. (now part of the Roche Group)
Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation	Insight Schools	T-Mobile USA
Browning-Ferris Industries	Intel	Takeda Pharmaceutical
Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad	International Fidelity Insurance Co.	Tampa Electric Co.
Burroughs Wellcome	International Game Technology	Taser International Inc.
Cahill, Wolfgram and Associates	International Paper	TECO Energy
Caliber System, Inc.		
Caltest/Omstar		
CARE CPA		

Carolina Power & Light	IPALCO Enterprises (Indianapolis Power & Light)	Tenneco Gas
CashAmerica	Irby Construction Co.	TEVA Pharmaceuticals
Caterpillar, Inc.	Jacobs Entertainment	Texaco Inc.
Celgene Corporation	JC Penney Co.	Texas Roadhouse
CenterPoint 360	Joseph E. Seagram & Sons Inc. (now Vivendi)	Texas Utilities Service Co.
Central and South West Corp.	J.R. Simplot Company	Thomson Reuters Accelus
Central Illinois Light Co. (now Ameren CILCO)	K12 Inc.	Thunder Basin Coal Co. (now part of Arch Coal)
Central Reserve Life	Kansas City Power and Light Co.	Time Insurance Co. (Assurant Health member company, formerly Fortis Health)
Century Link	Kansas City Southern	Time Warner Cable
Charter Communications	Know Who	Together RX Access
Chemical Banking Corp.	Koch Industries and Koch Industries Public Sector	Gulf States Toyota
Chesapeake Energy	Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc.	Transurban
Chevron Corporation	Laidlaw Transit Ltd.	The Traveler's Companies
Chrysler Corporation	LaSalle National Bank	Tropicana (now owned by PepsiCo)
CIBA-GEIGY	Leadership Directories, Inc.	TRW, Inc.
Cincinnati	Leavitt Partners	TXANS
CINergy (now part of Duke Energy)	Lederle Laboratories	Underwriters Surety Inc (sister company of American Surety Company)
Citizens Insurance Co.	Lexington National Insurance Co.	Unilever (owner of Axe deodorant, Dove soap, Pond's cold cream, Suave shampoo, Vaseline petroleum jelly, Signal toothpaste, Surf laundry soap, Slim Fast Weight loss foods, Lipton tea, Ben & Jerry's ice cream, Breyers ice cream, and Country Crock Margarine
Civic Initiatives, LLC.Cleco	Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.	Union Pacific Corporation
Cloud Peak Energy	LifeSaver Interlock Holdings, Inc.	United Airlines
CN (Canadian National Railroad)	LKQ/Keystone Automotive	United Healthcare
Coastal Corp.	LoanMax	United Infrastructure Co.
Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp.	Logisticare Solutions, LLC	United Parcel Service (UPS)
Coldwell Banker	Logix Solutions	The Upjohn Co. (now part of Pharmacia AB, Monsanto and Pfizer)
Columbia Gas of Ohio (now part of NiSource)	Long Term Care, Inc.	UPS Airlines
Columbia Healthcare (Now HCA Inc.)	LouisDreyfus Commodities	U.S. Generating Company
Comcast	LTC Inc.	U.S. Oncology
Commonwealth Edison Company (now Exelon)	Lyondell Basell Industries	
Connections Academy	Macquarie Capital Advisors USA Inc.	
ConocoPhillips	Marathon Oil Co.	
Consolidated Edison	Mary Kay Cosmetics	
Con-Way	Maximus	
Continental Resources	Mayflower Contract Services Inc.	
Coors Brewing Company	McKinsey & Company	
Corinthian Colleges, Inc.	McMoRan Exploration Company	

<p>Cornell Abraxas Corrections Corporation of America Coventry Health Care Coward Group Cox Communications Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. Crown Central Petroleum Corp. Crown, Cork, and Seal CQ Roll Call CSX Corporation CVS Caremark Corporation Cyprus AMAX Minerals Co. Daiichi Sankyo DCI Group, LLC Deere & Company Del Webb Corp. Detroit Edison Dezenhall Communications Mgmt. Group, LTD Diageo The Dial Corp (now part of Henkel) Digital Equipment Corp. Digital Products Co. DirecTV Group Dominion Resources Services, Inc. Douglass Financial Corp. Dow Chemical Company Dow Corning DowElanco Duke Energy Corp. DuPont Eastman Chemical Co. eBay Economy Plumbing Eli Lilly and Company EMD Serono</p>	<p>MDU Resources Group, Inc. Medco Health Solutions, Inc. MEGA Life & Health Insurance Merck Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. Miles Inc. Micron Technology Microsoft Corporation MidAmerican Energy Company Milliken & Co. MMR Group Mobil Oil Corp. Monsanto Motorola, Inc. Mt. Carmel Public Utility Company MV Verisol Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. National Health Insurance National Heritage Academies Nationwide Insurance Companies Nestle' USA Inc. Nevada Power Newmont Mining Corporation Norfolk Southern Northern Telecom Inc. Northrop Grumman Northwestern Energy Novartis NV Energy NYNEX Corp. (now Verizon Communications) Olin Corporation Optum Insight Orchid Cellmark Outback Steak House Outdoor Systems OXY USA Inc. and OxyChem (Occidental Petroleum)</p>	<p>UST Public Affairs US West, Inc UtiliCorp United Inc. Vancom Inc. Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company (VALIC) VASA Brougner (was acquired by the Centris Grup) Verizon Communications, Inc. Viad Corp. VISA Wackenhut Corrections (nowG4S) Wallace Laboratories Walgreens Wall Street Journal Wal-Mart Stores Walt Klein & Associates Wardwell Braiding Machine Co. Washington Times Waste Management Inc. Wausau Insurance Companies WellPoint Western Fuels Association Western Union West Publishing Co. Westvaco Corp. Whiteco The Williams Company Wine Institute WMX Technologies (formerly Waste Management Inc.) Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories (now Pfizer) Xcel Energy Yahoo! Zoom Cycle Accessories Zurich Insurance</p>
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Emerson Electric Co. EnCana Corporation	Corporation)	
Endo Pharmaceuticals	Pacific Corp.	
Energy Future Holdings	Pacific Telesis Group	
Energy Solutions	Parke-Davis	
Energy Transfer	Parquet Public Affairs	
Enron Corporation	Peabody Energy	
	Peoples Energy Corporation	
	Pennsylvania Electric Co.	

ALEC Trade Groups Corporate Board

Academy of General Dentistry	Cigar Association of America, Inc.	National Cable and Telecommunications Association
Air Transport Association of American	Cintra USA	National Council for Private School Accreditation
American Association of Christian Schools	Coalition for Auto Repair Equality (automotive aftermarket trade group)	National Court Reporters Association
American Association of Health Plans	Council for Affordable Health Insurance	National Federal of Independent Business
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers (formerly the American Automobile Manufacturers Association)	Council on State Taxation	National Independent Private Schools Association
American Bail Coalition	CropLife America (formerly the American Crop Protection Association)	National Multi House Council
American Bankers Association	Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.	National Pawn Brokers Association
American Chemistry Council	Edison Electric Institute	National Pork Producers Council
American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity	Electricity Consumers Resource Council	National Restaurant Association
American Council of Life Insurance	Electronic Industries Association	National Soft Drink Association (now American Beverage Association)
American Gas Association	Entertainment Software Association	National Society of Public Accountants
American Institute of Certified Public Accountants	Georgia Medical Association	Nationwide Insurance Companies
American Massage Therapy Association	Grocery Manufacturers of America	Net Choice

American Optometric Association	Health Insurance Association of America	Nevada Mining Association
American Petroleum Institute	Illinois Corn Marketing Board	Non-Bank Funds Transmitters Group
American Plastics Council	Illinois Energy Association	Nonprescription Drug Manufacturers Association
American Shooting Sports Council (formerly gun industry trade association)	Illinois Financial Services Association	Nuclear Energy Institute
American Tort Reform Association	Illinois Petroleum Council	Oxygenated Fuels Association
American Trucking Association	Illinois Retail Merchants Association	Performance marketing Association
America's Credit Unions	Illinois Road Builders Association	PhRMA
Amusement and Music Operators Association	Illinois Soybean Association	Professional Bail Agents of the US
Associated Beer Distributors of Illinois	Illinois State Medical Society	Property Casualty Insurers of America
Associated Bond and Insurance Agency	Independent Insurance Agents of America	Self Insurance Institute of America
Associated Builders and Contractors	International Council of Shopping Centers	Society of Louisiana CPAs
Associated Industries of Florida	International Franchise Association	Smokeless Tobacco Council
Association for Commercial Real Estate	International Mass Retail Association	Steel Recycling Institute
Association for the Management and Operations of Transportation Infrastructure Assets	Iowa Life and Health Insurance Association	TechAmerica
Association of American Physicians and Surgeons	Louisiana Realtors	TechFreedom
Association of American Railroads	Michigan Association of Realtors	Texas Medical Association
Association of Christian Schools	Mineral Resource Alliance	Tobacco Institute
Association of Health Insurance Agents	Missouri Association of Realtors	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives	National Association for Home Care	Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America
Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities	National Association for the Self-Employed	
Biotechnology Industry Organization	National Association of Convenience Stores	
Campaign to Keep Travel Competitive (former travel industry lobbying group)	National Association of Home Builders	
Carpet and Rug Institute	National Association of Independent Insurers	
Center for Liquefied Natural Gas	National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies	
Chemical Manufacturers Association	National Association of Professional Employer Organizations	
	National Association of Water Companies	
	National Beer Wholesalers	

Cigar Association	Association	
Chlorine Chemistry Council	National Business Association	

ALEC Non-Profits

ALCOA Foundation (Aluminum Co. of America)	Foundation for Fair Civil Justice	National Taxpayers Union
Allegheny Foundation (part of Scaife Foundations)	Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity	New Hope Foundation
Alliance Defense Fund	Fraser Institute Global Resource Center	Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs
American Civil Rights Institute and Coalition	Freedom Foundation	Prison Fellowship Ministries
American Enterprise Institute	Free State Foundation	ProFamily Legislative Network
American Federal for Children	Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice	Reason Foundation
American Principles Project	Goldwater Institute	The Republican Legislative Campaign Committee
American Stewards of Liberty	Heartland Institute	RestoringFreedom.org, Inc.
Americans for Tax Reform	Heritage Foundation	Romill Foundation (associated with Roger Milliken of Milliken & Co. in Spartan. S.C.)
Americans United for Life	Illinois Policy Institute	Science and Public Policy Institute
Anheuser-Busch Foundation	Independence Institute	The Seniors Coalition
Atlantic Bridge	Innosight Institute	The Solar Alliance
Better Education for Kids	Institute for Energy Research	State Budget Solutions
Capitol Commission	Institute for Justice	State Policy Network
Cato Institute	Institute for Policy Innovation	Stop Child Predators
Center for Competitive Politics	Iowans for Tax Relief	Sunmark Foundation
Center for Education Reform	Kraft Foundation	Tax Foundation
Center for Energy and the Environment	Kriebel Institute	Texas Public Policy Foundation
Center for Energy Studies	Lumina Foundation (until May 2012)	United Services Automobile Association
Center for Security Policy	Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation	UPS Foundation
Center for Tenth Amendment Studies	Mackinac Center for Public Policy	U.S. English Foundation
Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change	Mercatus Center at George Mason University	Van Der Aa Foundation
Citizens in Charge	National Association of Charter School Authorizers	Walton Family Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation	National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (Exhibitor at ALEC's 2011 Annual Conference and Education Task Force Member)	
Council for Affordable Health Insurance	National Organization for Marriage	
Doctor Patient Medical Association		
Electricity Consumers Research Council		

European Conservatives and Reformists Family Research Council Florida Justice Reform Association Foundation for Excellence in Education	National Popular Vote National Rifle Association National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action National Right to Life Committee, Inc. National Right to Work Committee	Wall Builders Washington Policy Center Where's the Line America? Foundation Youth Villages
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Public Awareness, Controversy Prompt ALEC Members To Leave

In the past, disagreeing with or opposing ALEC could be a lonely endeavor, and the person or group considered outliers. But, according to Wisconsin State Representative Mark Pocan, today presents a totally different outlook. A coalition has been formed that challenges and publicizes ALEC's actions. It includes Bob Edgar, the head of Common Cause, Lisa Graves, the head of the Center for Media & Democracy (operator of the ALECexposed.org website), and representatives from People for the American Way, the League of Women Voters, anti-gun violence groups, environmental groups, AFSCME, and others.

When Florida teenager Travon Martin was allegedly shot and killed by crime watch volunteer George Zimmerman in a gated community in Sanford, Florida, ALEC garnered a dose of negative notoriety as the source of the "Stand Your Ground" model statute the Sunshine State enacted to empower volunteers to self patrol their neighborhoods. Subsequently, many large, high profile businesses have dropped out of ALEC and cancelled their membership status. They include, but may not be limited to:

- American Traffic Solutions
- Arizona Public Service Company
- Best Buy
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas
- Cargill, Inc.
- Coca-Cola Company
- CVS Caremark Corporation
- Dell, Inc.
- Fed Ex
- General Motors (GM)
- Hewlett-Packard
- Intuit, Inc.
- John Deere & Company
- Johnson & Johnson
- Kaplan Higher Education
- Kraft Food, Inc.
- Mars, Inc.
- McDonald's Corporation
- Miller Coors Brewing Company
- Pepsi-Cola
- Procter & Gamble
- Reed Elsevier, Inc.
- Scantron
- TicketMaster
- Walgreen's
- Wendy's
- YUM! Brands (owner of Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, Long John Silver's and A & W)

See ALEC's response to this significant departure of members

<http://www.alec.org/2012/04/statement-by-alan-p-dye-on-latest-harassment-tactic-against-alec->

by-liberal-front-groups/ and ALEC's frequently asked questions:

<http://www.alec.org/about-alec/frequently-asked-questions/>.