

For Immediate Release

January 27, 2009

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ALEC Opposes Internet Regulation in Congressional Stimulus Legislation

Washington, D.C.—[The American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) voices its serious concerns over provisions in the economic stimulus plans of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to usher in unprecedented government regulation of the Internet. ALEC opposes plans for federal regulators to impose network management standards through conditional spending grants. Any congressional stimulus legislation should reaffirm our system of network freedom that fosters the kind of innovation that a thriving Internet depends on.

Title III of the House version of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 allocates nearly two billion dollars of federal taxpayer money for infrastructure build-out grants to private broadband service providers or to state and local governments that provide broadband services. But strings are attached to those grants that would give the federal government sweeping new controls over broadband service networks. The House proposal requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to create and enforce “open access” regulations that all broadband service providers receiving grants must follow. The proposal would also transform the FCC’s existing set of voluntary principles for network management into an enforceable government mandate for those broadband service providers. These provisions in the House proposal essentially guarantee that any broadband service provider receiving such grants must accept a network neutrality regulatory regime. Similarly, the House proposal’s requirement that the FCC create and enforce “wireless open access” regulations for wireless broadband services could be aggressively interpreted by the FCC to impose network neutrality regulations on wireless broadband providers. A similar, strings-attached grant program is contemplated for the Senate stimulus plan that currently in the works.

“Internet regulations won’t stimulate the economy,” said Seth Cooper, ALEC’s [Telecommunications & Information Technology Task Force](#) Director. “Unfortunately, the strings-attached provisions have more to do with increasing government control over the Internet than with improving broadband build-out to unserved areas. Regulatory schemes reduce incentives for economic investment by the private sector for broadband build-out. A regulatory stimulus of this kind is inherently at odds with the supposed economic purpose behind the broadband infrastructure grants. Congress should remove all provisions that could lead to network neutrality regulations.”

Private broadband service providers that compete for customers based on price and service demand flexibility to relieve Internet traffic congestion on their networks. So-called network neutrality regulations increase potential risks and jeopardize potential rewards for private sector pursuit of network management innovations. Such regulation undermines the incentives for the private sector to invest in their networks.

ALEC's [Resolution on Network Neutrality](#) (2007) affirms that the exponential growth of the Internet is a result of “the government's ‘hands off’ approach, ever increasing competition, as well as fierce consumer interest.” The Resolution recognizes that “companies that invest in broadband and broadband-related applications should be afforded the flexibility to explore fair and competitive business models and pricing plans for their products and services.” The Resolution also declares that “mandated net neutrality regulations would impede future capital investments in the U.S. broadband infrastructure.”

ALEC takes no overall position on economic stimulus legislation in Congress, but it opposes any attempt to legislate network management regulations through conditional spending grants.

The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) is the nation's largest individual membership organization of state legislators, dedicated to advancing the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty.

For Immediate Release

January 29, 2009

Contact: Jorge Amselle

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ALEC Urges Congress to Consider Tax Incentives for Broadband Investment

Washington, D.C.—[The American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) expresses concerns that the dispersal of grants for broadband infrastructure contained in Congressional stimulus legislation could erode marketplace competition. Instead, ALEC believes that any such legislation should encourage investment in broadband networks and ensure consumer choice. ALEC urges Congress to carefully consider alternative measures that will give private service providers financial incentives to accelerate investment in broadband.

The U.S. House version of the *American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009* allocates nearly two billion dollars of federal taxpayer money for infrastructure build-out grants to private broadband service providers or to state and local governments that provide broadband services. The Senate is working out details on a companion bill.

“ALEC opposes any grant program that discriminates against competing providers of the same services,” said Seth Cooper, [ALEC’s Telecommunications & Information Technology Task Force](#) Director. “When government becomes a direct competitor in the marketplace, there is a danger that it will use its official tax and regulatory powers to unfairly gain an upper-hand in the market. This undermines consumer choice.”

Rather than provide grants with burdensome strings to public and private broadband service providers using taxpayer funds, the Congress should consider alternatives. For instance, tax incentives or accelerated depreciation schedules would likely encourage broadband providers to increase investments in their own broadband infrastructure.

“Right now, ALEC particularly encourages the Senate to consider adopting or extending tax incentives that encourage accelerated private investment in broadband infrastructure. Increased private investment is the best hope for rapid economic stimulus,” added Cooper.

[ALEC’s Resolution Supporting Pro Consumer Public Policy for Voice, Video, and Data Services](#) (2005) declares that “Government policies should encourage the private sector to provide competitive choices for voice, video and data.” In addition, ALEC’s *Municipal Telecommunications Private Industry Safeguards Act* (2002) opposes discrimination by

state and local government providers of broadband services against competing providers of the same services.

ALEC takes no overall position on economic stimulus legislation in Congress. But it does maintain that government should encourage the private sector to provide competitive choices to consumers.

The American Legislative Exchange Council is the nation's largest individual membership organization of state legislators, dedicated to advancing the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
February 10, 2009

Contact: Michael Hough
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Criminals on the Streets: A Citizen's Right to Know New Publication Now Available From State Legislators' Organization

Washington, D.C.— Every day in America, fifteen people are murdered by criminals who have been released from jail at the taxpayer's expense. The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the nation's largest membership organization for state legislators, has released its newest *State Factor* entitled *Criminals on the Streets: A Citizen's Right to Know*. This study explains the increased cost and crime associated with government-run pretrial release services and the need to make these services accountable and transparent to the public.

"In a time of economic downturn and state spending deficits, it is even more important for the citizens to know if their tax dollars are being used to release dangerous fugitives from jail, who after being released commit new crimes and are not held accountable," Said Rep. Bill Ruppel of Indiana, ALEC's Bail Bond Subcommittee Chairman.

Unfortunately, many government-run bail operations keep their costs hidden from taxpayers and are not held accountable for their results.

ALEC proposes a solution to this in its model bill, *The Citizen's Right to Know Act*, which makes pretrial release programs reveal important information such as budgets, records on defendant's releases, types of bonds, and failures to appear; as well as recidivism rates. This would create more transparency and accountability, in turn, producing a more efficient and effective system ultimately serving to further protect and defend the public's safety as well as their wallets. This legislation has been adopted in Texas and Florida.

The government-run pretrial system relies on funding from taxpayers. In contrast, private commercial bail places no burden. In fact, it makes states money because bail bond agents pay cash forfeitures *to the state* when a defendant absconds. According to recent studies, commercial bail also proves to be a safer alternative than government pretrial release. Defendants released by the commercial bail industry are less likely to commit new crimes.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:
February 25, 2009**

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ALEC Praises Supreme Court Ruling Upholding States' Authority over Local Government in Public Employee Payroll Deduction Case

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) applauds yesterday's ruling by the United States Supreme Court in *Ysursa v. Pocatello Education Association*. The Supreme Court upheld an Idaho state law that prohibited payroll deductions by public employees for their union's political activities. In so doing, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the discretionary authority of states over public collective bargaining privileges and the authority of states to control their respective political subdivisions.

In his opinion for the Supreme Court, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote: "[t]he First Amendment prohibits government from 'abridging the freedom of speech'; it does not confer an affirmative right to use government payroll mechanisms for the purpose of obtaining funds for expression." The Chief Justice concluded that "[w]hile in some contexts the government must accommodate expression, it is not required to assist others in funding the expression of particular ideas, including political ones." "Banning payroll deductions for political speech," the Chief Justice maintained, "furthers the government's interest in distinguishing between internal and governmental operations and private speech."

Importantly, the Chief Justice reiterated that political subdivisions such as cities and counties are subordinate units of government created by States to carry out delegated government functions. Such subdivisions have no privileges or immunities under the federal constitution to invoke against States that created them. Accordingly, the Court upheld Idaho's ban on public employee payroll deductions for union political activities as it applied to county and city governments.

In 2003, the Idaho Legislature passed the *Voluntary Contributions Act*, prohibiting collection of political contributions from state and local government employees through state and local government payroll systems. The law expressly protected the rights of union members to contribute money to candidates of their choosing. Several unions sued. Last year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the law as it applied to Idaho state government employees, but struck down a portion of the Act as it applied to Idaho local government employees. This despite the fact that states create political subdivisions—such as counties, cities, and municipalities—and maintain the rightful authority to limit all powers delegated to those subdivisions. Yesterday's ruling by the Supreme Court reversed the Ninth Circuit.

ALEC joined with the Evergreen Freedom Foundation and the Independence Institute in filing an *amicus curiae* to the Supreme Court in *Ysursa*. In its brief, ALEC reaffirmed the states' interest in disentangling government property and processes from political contributions and similarly reaffirmed the rightful authority of states over local government entities. The brief analyzed the discretion of states to stay out automatic payroll deduction duties in light of the states' overall discretion to create or withdraw public collective bargaining privileges to public employee

unions. States are not constitutionally compelled to engage in public collective bargaining. Consistent with the constitution, states may permissibly prohibit public collective bargaining altogether. By contrast, the ability of individuals to join unions and to privately collectively bargain with private employers is protected by First Amendment freedom of association.

“The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court penned a superb opinion—succinct, tightly reasoned, and constitutionally sound,” said Seth Cooper, coordinator of ALEC’s Amicus Project. “ALEC believes the Supreme Court rightly recognized the discretionary power of states to disentangle their governmental operations from political activities. Likewise, ALEC applauds the Supreme Court’s vindication of the authority of states over their political subdivisions.”

ALEC’s Task Forces have approved several model bills that protect the First Amendment rights of workers represented by labor organizations, including its *Public Employer Payroll Deduction Policy Act*.

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The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators, with over 2,000 legislator members from all fifty states, and 85 former members serving in the U.S. Congress. www.alec.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:
March 2, 2009**

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ALEC and State Legislators Defend Democratic Accountability and Educational Reform in Upcoming Supreme Court Case

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and several individual state legislators recently filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives and President of the Arizona Senate vs. Miriam Flores, et al.* ALEC and the state legislators urged the Supreme Court to vindicate the constitutional authority of state elected officials to adopt and fund educational policies that emphasize standards and accountability. Their brief warned against the dangers posed to federalism, separation of powers and democratic accountability when federal trial judges undertake long-term micromanagement of state and local institutions.

“ALEC and its members support government of, by, and for the people under the rule of law,” said Seth Cooper, ALEC’s Amicus Counsel. “But democratic accountability and the legal order are undermined when federal trial judges commandeer the legislative appropriations process and control the operation of state institutions when there is no ongoing legal violation. Hopefully, the Supreme Court will recognize that any judicial oversight of state institutions should be a last resort. Judicial supervision of state institutions through consent decrees or injunctions should be as narrow in scope as possible and continue only so long as an ongoing violation of law exists.”

The amicus brief of ALEC and the named state legislators emphasizes that states bear the primary responsibility for providing and financing public education. It also reiterates basic separation of powers principles, including the inherently legislative nature of appropriation powers. Importantly, the brief maintains that democratic accountability of state and local government is undermined where trial judges assume control of their institutions for successive elective cycles. In addition, it highlighted the importance of reaffirming the legislative branch’s abilities to pursue innovative new policies to bring reform and raise achievement in areas such as public education. ALEC and the state legislators emphatically defended the ability of states to use performance and accountability measures to better provide public educational services.

The *Flores* case began as a lawsuit against one Arizona school district in 1992. The district was ruled to be in violation of federal law for failing to provide ELL students equal educational opportunity. Despite significant improvements to ELL funding and programs that followed, a federal trial judge in Arizona later absorbed the entire state into the litigation. More recently, the federal trial judge declared that the Arizona legislature’s attempts to improve overall education funding and other funding sources for ELL programs and to combine them with performance accountability standards violated federal law. The trial judge insisted that the Arizona legislature must adopt earmarked appropriations to satisfy the law. Arizona’s House Speaker and Senate President challenged the trial judge’s rulings. But the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the trial judge’s rulings, refusing to consider changes in factual circumstances and federal law that have taken place since the case began.

In October, 2008, ALEC filed an amicus brief to the Supreme Court concerning *Flores*, urging the Court take up and decide the matter. In January of this year, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case. ALEC and several state legislators filed a new amicus brief with the Supreme Court in *Flores* in anticipation of the Court's scheduling for oral arguments in the case on April 20.

ALEC's policies regarding government institutional reform cases are embodied in its *Resolution on the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act* (2006). In addition, ALEC's support for standards and accountability in education policy is expressed in its *Resolution Supporting the Principles of No Child Left Behind* (2006).

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NEWS BULLETIN

**For Immediate Release:
March 5, 2009**

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Supreme Court Urged to Address Private Property Protections and Taxing Power Limits

Late last week, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court, urging it to take up and decide the case of *Empress Casino Joilet Group v. Alexi Giannoulis*. The Illinois case concerns a state surcharge that taxes selected businesses in one industry and redistributes the proceeds to a competing industry. ALEC's brief requested the Supreme Court hear the case in order to vindicate constitutional principles and private property rights. Its brief also emphasized the need for the Supreme Court to give state legislators clearer guidance about the outer boundaries of state taxing power. The case could have broad implications for state taxing powers and the limits placed on those powers by the Takings Clause of the federal constitution.

In 2006, the Illinois legislature imposed a 3% revenue surcharge on the four most profitable casinos in Illinois and directed that the proceeds be distributed to five race tracks operating in the state. The surcharge apparently served as compensation to the race tracks for revenues lost due to competition with casinos. The Illinois Supreme Court upheld the tax. It ruled that statutes requiring payment of money are not subject to the Takings Clause of the federal constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court is now considering whether to take up the case.

In its brief to the U.S. Supreme Court, ALEC expressed grave concerns about government transfers of money from one private party to another private party by taxation. ALEC urged the nation's highest court to take up the case and thereby reaffirm core constitutional principles. They include:

- (1) money possessed by citizens or businesses is private property protected by the federal constitution's Takings Clause;
- (2) government taxing powers are constrained by the Takings Clause; *and*
- (3) naked transfers of private property from A to B are prohibited by the Takings Clause.

By vindicating private property rights in money and the constitutional protections provided by the Takings Clause, ALEC believes the Supreme Court can bring greater clarity to the scope of state taxing powers. Accordingly, ALEC's brief urged the Supreme Court to give state legislators important guidance about the scope of their taxing powers.

"State legislators need to know the outer limits of state taxing power under the federal constitution," said ALEC Amicus Counsel Seth Cooper. "In particular, state legislators must be

able to discern how state taxing power is constrained by the federal constitution's Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. The Supreme Court now has an opportunity to bring greater clarity to the law. Clarity would better allow for responsible use of taxing powers by state legislators."

State legislators are especially in need of clearer rules because of the confusion resulting from the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Eastern Enterprises v. Apfel* (1998). That case, which involved a law requiring retroactive payment of benefits, resulted in a 4-1-4 split among the justices. The four-member plurality opinion that controlled the case regarded the law as an unconstitutional taking. But in the years following *Eastern Enterprises*, lower courts across the nation have interpreted the case differently on the issue of whether money possessed by citizens and businesses is private property protected by the federal constitution's Takings Clause.

ALEC's brief in the *Empress Casino* case takes no position on the subject of gaming. Rather, its brief focuses on constitutional principles and rights implicated by the case. The Supreme Court will decide whether to take up the *Empress Casino* case later this spring.

ALEC's support of neutral and non-distortionary exercise of taxing power is reflected in its *Statement of Principles on Local Tax Options*. ALEC's recognition of constitutional protections in money possessed by citizens and businesses is reflected in its *Resolution Supporting the Private Ownership of Property*.

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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
March 16, 2009**

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Supreme Court's Ruling Upholds Integrity of State Legislatures' Redistricting Authority

Washington, D.C. - Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in the redistricting case of *Bartlett v. Strickland*. In a case involving an important interpretation of the Voting Rights Act, the Supreme Court ruled that neither the statute nor case law requires states to create "crossover minority" single-member legislative districts where *no* intentional discrimination exists. The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) agrees with the Supreme Court's ruling, which preserves the integrity of state legislative redistricting authority under the Constitution.

ALEC filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the Supreme Court in *Bartlett v. Strickland*. In its brief, ALEC urged the Court to reaffirm the workable rules for legislative redistricting it has adhered to in its prior rulings construing the Voting Rights Act. Justice Anthony Kennedy's opinion for the Court emphasized many of the concerns that ALEC raised in its brief. The Supreme Court reached its decision in a close 5-4 vote.

"The Supreme Court's ruling in *Bartlett v. Strickland* is important because it preserves the rightful role of state legislatures in the redistricting process," said ALEC's Amicus Project coordinator Seth Cooper. "By setting out workable rules for the apportionment phase of redistricting, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that state legislators have primary responsibility for redistricting. The Court's careful and limited ruling makes clear that state legislators should be able to make redistricting decisions based upon political subdivision lines as well as other objective, race-neutral means."

State legislative authority over the redistricting phase of legislative reapportionment is provided under Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution.

At issue in *Bartlett v. Strickland* was whether the VRA and Supreme Court case precedent mandated creation of "crossover minority" districts when doing so was contrary to race-neutral state constitutional requirements. The North Carolina State Constitution's "Whole County Provision" states that no county shall be divided in the formation of senate or representative districts unless federal law so requires. The North Carolina Supreme Court held that because Pender County, NC is not numerically a "minority-majority" district, the state legislature was not required to split up the country in setting single-member state legislative districts. The Supreme Court's ruling in *Bartlett v. Strickland* upheld the North Carolina Supreme Court's decision.

Bartlett v. Strickland gives state legislators a workable framework for making redistricting decisions pursuant to the quantifiable 'minority-majority' requirement. The Supreme Court affirmed that states must establish "minority-majority" districts only if the certain factors are met under the Court's ruling in an earlier case. Under the Court's precedent in *Thornburg v. Gingles* (1986), a legislative district boundary violates section 2 of

the VRA (1) if a racial minority population constitutes a majority of that district, (2) if the minority group votes as a bloc, and (3) a racial majority population votes as a bloc enough to usually defeat the minor's preferred candidate, so that under the totality of circumstances the minority voters' ability to elect candidates of their choice is impaired.

In reaching its decision in *Bartlett v. Strickland*, the Supreme Court pointed to the inherent difficulties that would have resulted from mandating "crossover minority" districts be created through subjective determinations about voter coalitions. The Court rejected as unworkable the argument that section 2 of the VRA mandates legislative districts be created whenever a minority population in a given area could form a coalition with majority voters to elect a candidate of their choice.

Moreover, the Supreme Court made clear that its ruling does *not* apply where individuals or officials challenge districting decisions based on alleged discriminatory intent. Rather, *Bartlett v. Strickland* addressed vote dilution claims that are made where no discriminatory intent exists. The Court reiterated that any attempts by a state to draw district lines in order to destroy otherwise effective crossover districts raise serious questions under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest individual membership organization of state legislators, dedicated to the Jeffersonian principles of limited government, federalism, free markets, and individual liberty.

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
March 31, 2009

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ALEC Urges FCC to Respect States' Sovereignty over Cable & Video Franchising

Washington, D.C.—Today, the [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) urged federal regulators considering statewide cable and video franchising authority to respect state sovereignty and to avoid inappropriate federal overreach. A docket before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) involves three local disputes concerning public, educational, and governmental (PEG) programming requirements under statewide cable and video franchising laws and local franchising agreements. ALEC urged the FCC to reject arguments for federal preemption of statewide franchising laws that would inappropriately undermine states' authority over their respective local governments.

“Consistent with federal law, a number of states have enacted statewide cable and video franchise reforms that have led to increased broadband deployment and to more cable and video choices for consumers,” said [Seth Cooper](#), Director of [ALEC's Telecommunications & Information Technology Task Force](#). Cooper submitted public comments to FCC on behalf of ALEC. “The FCC should reject any and all federal preemption claims. The plain terms of federal law concerning cable franchising make clear that states have the option of requiring cable operators to provide PEG programming capacity. Rather, statewide franchising laws preempt any conflicting local government franchise agreements. And state sovereignty principles concerning the authority of states over their political subdivisions prohibit federal agencies from interfering with states' control over their local governments.”

ALEC's official policy concerning state cable and video franchising is its *Cable and Video Competition Act*. ALEC's model is designed to remove uncertainty under state law with respect to the authority of competitive cable and video service providers to use the public rights-of-way, and to promote greater marketplace competition. State-issued authorization for competitive cable and video service providers reduce barriers to deployment of their systems to consumers. State-issued franchise awards better encourage the significant investments required to provide new services and competition for video programming than regimes calling for countless local franchise agreements.

Numerous states have enacted statewide video franchise reform based in significant part on the framework provided by ALEC's model.

ALEC's respect for the proper role of states under the federal constitution is reflected in part through numerous, policy-specific model state bills and resolutions, as well as its *Resolution to Restate State Sovereignty*.

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AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL
ALEC

The American Legislative Exchange Council is the nation's largest individual membership organization of state legislators dedicated to advancing the principles of free markets, limited government, federalism and individual liberty.

**For Immediate Release
April 2, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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Maryland Delegate Christopher Shank Appointed to the Executive Committee of ALEC's Civil Justice Task Force

Washington, D.C.—The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) announced today the appointment of Maryland State Delegate Christopher Shank as a member of the Civil Justice Task Force's Executive Committee. A formal announcement will be made at the Civil Justice Task Force meeting during ALEC's Spring Task Force Summit on May 2, 2009 in Memphis, Tennessee.

As the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization of state legislators, ALEC represents a network of about 2,000 Democrat and Republican state legislators who are committed to the fundamental Jeffersonian principles of individual liberty, limited government, free market, and federalism. ALEC is divided into eight task forces by issue area. The Civil Justice Task Force promotes the restoration of fairness, predictability and consistency to the civil justice system.

The Task Force's Executive Committee has been developed to serve an advisory role to the Chairmen of the Task Force. Del. Shank will serve as a contemplative and principled advisor in situations of debate, and will provide insight and ideas to the Task Force for consideration and discussion at task force meetings.

Victor Schwartz, Private Sector Chairman of the Civil Justice Task Force has voiced that "Del. Shank has been chosen by me and my co-chair because of his fair approach to legal reform and his long-standing support of the Task Force."

"ALEC is lucky to count his leadership on the Civil Justice Task Force just as the citizens of Washington County are lucky to have Del. Shank's voice of reason in the Maryland Statehouse," said Amy Kjose, Civil Justice Task Force Director.

For more information please contact the Civil Justice Task Force Director Amy Kjose at (202) 466-3800.

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The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the largest individual membership organization of state legislators and the private sector that brings them together as equal partners in the development of free-market model legislation for the states.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
April 9, 2009

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Arizona Senate President Robert L. Burns Named to Board of National Legislators' Organization

Washington, D.C.—The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators, has recently appointed Arizona Senate President Robert L. Burns to its Board of Directors.

Sen. Bob Burns was elected in November 2002 to represent Legislative District 9 in the Arizona State Senate. The senator is a Republican from Peoria, and has served in the pivotal role as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sen. Burns is a veteran of the legislature and brings invaluable experience to the body. Previously, the senator served his West Valley constituents as a member of the House of Representatives from 1989-2000. For the last eight years of that tenure, Sen. Burns also served as the House Appropriations Chairman.

Senator Burns has been the Arizona ALEC State Chairman since 2005 and currently serves on the Telecommunications & Information Technology Task Force. He is an ALEC Legacy member, having attended his first ALEC meeting in 1999.

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 22, 2009

Contact: Jorge Amselle
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Arizona Bill Promoting Health Care Choice Praised

Statement of Christie Herrera, Director of ALEC's Health And Human Services Task Force

LEGISLATIVE HEARING
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DATE: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 – ROOM: HHR 4 – TIME: 9:30 A.M.

PRESS CONFERENCE
Immediately following the Hearing
Featuring
Representative Nancy K. Barto
Chairman, Committee on Health and Human Services

ALEC Commends HCR 2014

On behalf of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and its 1,800 state legislator members nationwide, 37 members in the Arizona House and Senate, and 78 "ALEC Alumni" in Congress, I commend Arizona House Concurrent Resolution 2014, which would protect the rights of Arizonans to make their own health care choices.

HCR 2014 is modeled after ALEC's own *Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act*. Five other states have introduced this important legislation.¹

Ensuring Access to Health Services—Without Waiting Lists

When consumers control the dollars, they make the decisions. On the other hand, a single-payer health system—which forces patients to enroll in a one-size-fits-all plan with rich benefits and weak cost-sharing—will cause spending to skyrocket and policymakers to ration care as a cost-containment measure.

Look at what's happened in New Zealand, where breast cancer patients were blocked from accessing the lifesaving drug Herceptin—because it cost too much. Or think about brain injury patients in Canada—a country that ranks 19th among 26 reporting OECD nations in access to CT scanners.

Under a socialized medicine scheme, many patients will suffer, and some will die on a waiting list. Arizonans don't deserve that kind of treatment. That's why we commend HCR 2014, which will prevent Arizonans from being enrolled in a single-payer health system that will simultaneously pay for everyone's health care and limit access to it.

Protecting the Doctor-Patient Relationship

HCR 2014 ensures a person's right to pay directly for medical care. Single-payer systems, like in Canada, make it illegal for citizens to go outside the government's health care plan and

¹ In the 2009 session: Indiana SR 65, SR 91, SR 111; Minnesota HF 171, SF 325, SF 1282; New Mexico SJR 1, HJR 10; North Dakota HCR 3010; Wyoming SJR 3.

contract for their own medical services. Cost overruns require most single-payer plans to restrict patient choices, and instead mandate an “evidence-based” treatment schedule that standardizes care.

HCR 2014 ensures that patients—not government officials—should decide which doctor to see, what treatments to get, and whether or not to get a second or third opinion.

Preventing Costly, “Free” Universal Coverage

Arizona should heed the painful lessons set by Wisconsin’s high-cost universal health plan. In 2007, that state proposed—and rejected—a single-payer health plan for its citizens. The Wisconsin plan would have required all citizens to drop their private health coverage and instead enroll in a state-administered plan. Financing the plan would have meant a \$15.2 billion dollar tax increase—the largest tax increase ever enacted by any state. And the plan would have become more expensive every year—comprising nearly 40 percent of Wisconsin’s budget in the first year alone.

With a deficit topping \$1.6 billion, Arizona can’t afford costly, “free”-in-name-only universal health coverage. HCR 2014 will save Arizonans from crippling, health-related tax hikes and budget cuts.

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The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation’s largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 22, 2009

Contact: Jorge Amselle
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Oklahoma Passes Comprehensive Tort Reform: Governor Brad Henry Signs Reform Legislation

(Washington, DC)— Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry yesterday signed into law H.B. 1603, the most comprehensive piece of legal reform legislation ever passed by the Oklahoma legislative and executive branches. Governor Henry’s approval follows the Oklahoma Senate’s passage of the comprehensive reform by a vote of 45-1 on May 14. The bill had passed the Oklahoma House of Representatives earlier that day by an 86-13 vote.

H.B. 1603 contains numerous provisions that reflect the [American Legislative Exchange Council’s](#) civil justice reform policy and model legislation, including class action reform; a cap on the amount a party must post before appealing; venue reform that will keep citizens of other states from engaging in “litigation tourism”; a redefinition of the term “frivolous lawsuit”; junk science and expert witness reforms; asbestos and silica reform; caps on noneconomic damages except in cases of severe disfigurement and reckless disregard; gun manufacturer liability protection; volunteer immunity; and teacher liability protection.

ALEC applauds the efforts of bill authors Rep. Dan Sullivan and Sen. Glenn Coffee, the Oklahoma Legislature, the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce, and the many parties who have worked to give Oklahomans this important reform.

“Thanks to the passage of H.B. 1603, Oklahomans can now look forward to the economic and medical benefits that are sure to accompany such positive reforms and that states like Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Texas have experienced as national leaders in the trend to reform America’s legal system,” said Amy Kjose, ALEC’s Civil Justice Task Force Director. “In difficult economic times, the need for competitive legal reform is only greater. Oklahoma legislators keenly recognized this need.”

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The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 22, 2009

Contact: Jorge Amselle
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ALEC Opposes Cap & Trade Bill: House Energy and Commerce Committee passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009

(Washington, DC)— The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) with its 2,000 state legislators from fifty states opposes the vote in favor of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, H.R. 2454, taken last night by the Energy and Commerce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

This legislation will raise energy prices on American consumers, will cause job loss and will put the United States at a competitive disadvantage in the global economy. H.R. 2454 imposes for the first time in the U.S. a cap and trade system for carbon dioxide that promises to vastly expand power in Washington and to plague America's economy with fraud, waste and inefficiency.

Recent analysis of the legislation by respected and independent CRA International for the National Black Chamber of Commerce concluded that it would cost the U.S. economy \$350 billion and 2.3 million to 2.7 million jobs each year through 2030. This is after taking into account the "green" jobs proponents promise to create.

"The zeal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions at any cost at a time when so many American families are struggling economically is disappointing," said Alan Smith, ALEC's executive director. "And let us remember that reducing CO2 emissions is no end in itself," he continued. "At the end of this exercise in self-improvement we may find we have produced no environmental benefit whatsoever."

The bill also includes a federal standard for renewable energy use for electricity, an unnecessary and unfair mandate on states. States have developed their own policies on renewable energy and this one-size-fits-all approach will benefit some states at the expense of others because of vast differences in states' natural resources and conditions.

For more on cap and trade for carbon dioxide, visit ALEC's special [Cap and Trade](#) site.

To access the CRA International study, visit www.nationalbcc.org.

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*The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan,
individual membership organization of state legislators.*

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
June 15, 2009

Contact: Jorge Amselle
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Jeffrey A. Bond, PhRMA Senior Vice President, Joins Board of National Legislators' Organization

Washington, D.C.—The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators, has recently named Jeffrey A. Bond, senior vice president for state government affairs at the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), to its Private Enterprise Board of Directors.

A 32-year veteran of America's pharmaceutical research companies and their philanthropies, Mr. Bond replaces Kurt L. Malmgren, a 14-year PhRMA veteran, and long time ALEC Board member, who retired in May of this year.

Bond joined PhRMA April 1 from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. (BMS), where he served as vice president for government affairs and led all company advocacy activities with elected state officials and key state policymakers. He was a member of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Patient Assistance Foundation Board of Directors; the Bristol-Myers Squibb Women's Health Philanthropy Board and served on the company's U.S. Pharmaceuticals Operating Committee.

"No stranger to PhRMA, Jeff Bond has served twice as vice chairman of our organization's State Government Affairs Section and completed a term as section chairman in 2007," said PhRMA President and CEO Billy Tauzin. "Jeff not only has a wealth of experience working for pharmaceutical research companies over the past three decades, he is also thoroughly familiar with PhRMA, its issues and state government affairs operation. His extensive experience and knowledge of PhRMA made him the right choice to replace Kurt Malmgren, who has done so much to create a 21st Century state government affairs operation – one that is an active, constructive player on important health care issues in all 50 states."

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The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
June 24, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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Legislators Say Federal Health Reform Efforts Trample States' Rights

Washington, D.C.—Federal efforts to establish a Medicare-modeled “public plan” and a national health insurance exchange would trample states’ rights and lead Americans down the road to single-payer health care, said the [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC), a nonpartisan organization of 1,800 state legislators nationwide.

ALEC’s lawmakers approved the [Resolution on Preserving States’ Rights Regarding Federal Health Insurance Exchanges and a Public Plan](#), which deems the public plan anti-competitive and calls the proposed national health insurance exchange a “federal takeover” of the states’ role in regulating health insurance.

“The government will never compete unless it can change the rules to win,” says Iowa Representative [Linda Upmeyer](#), minority whip, family nurse practitioner, and chair of [ALEC’s Health and Human Services Task Force](#). “It’s an unlevel playing field when a public plan can shift costs to our state’s private insurers because of low doctor and hospital reimbursement rates, and then raid the federal Treasury for unlimited subsidies,” she added.

“The real goal of national health insurance exchange isn’t competition—it’s a federal power grab that flies in the face of the Tenth Amendment,” says Wisconsin Representative [Leah Vukmir](#), ranking member of the House Committee on Health and Health Care Reform, pediatric nurse practitioner, and ALEC member. “Legislators don’t want a bloated federal health insurance bureaucracy that duplicates the regulatory functions currently performed by states. And our constituents don’t want the feds to run health care like a public utility,” she added.

“The public plan and national health insurance exchange will squeeze out private insurance and put us on the road to single-payer health care,” said Georgia Senator [Judson Hill](#), member of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and ALEC member. “Political pressure to keep premiums low and benefits high will result in millions dropping their private coverage and getting on the federal health care dole. Having the public plan now will mean socialized medicine later,” he added.

To contact Iowa Representative Linda Upmeyer, Wisconsin Representative Leah Vukmir, or Georgia Senator Judson Hill, contact Jorge Amselle at (202) 742-8536.

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The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) is the nation’s largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
June 29, 2009

Contact: Jorge Amselle
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Russell D. Smoldon, of the Salt River Project, Joins Board of National Legislators' Organization

Washington, D.C.—The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators, has recently named Russell D. Smoldon, Manager, State and Local Government Relations for the Salt River Project in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah, to its Private Enterprise Board of Directors.

Mr. Smoldon is also ALEC's Arizona State Private Sector Chairman. He has previously worked as a Public Affairs Representative for the Washington Water Power Company responsible for government relations in the states of Idaho, Montana and Washington. Prior to that, he served Congressman Thomas S. Foley as a Legislative Assistant.

Mr. Smoldon has a significant record of working with, and leading policy initiatives on, state and national business organizations. Currently, he serves on the board of the Arizona Tax Research Association (past chairman), the Western Legislative Conference Planning Committee (past chairman), the Greater Phoenix Urban League (past chairman), and the National Conference of State Legislators' Advisory Council on Energy and National Tax Partnership.

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The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
June 29, 2009

Contact: Jorge Amselle
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ALEC Hails Supreme Court Decision Upholding Federalism and Democratic Accountability

On Thursday, the United States Supreme Court issued an important ruling concerning the scope and duration of federal court control over state and local institutions. In the case of [Horne vs. Flores](#), the Supreme Court ruled that federal trial courts exercising long-term supervision of state and local governments must carefully consider changes to existing law and new factual circumstances before continuing or expanding court control. The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) hails the Court's decision as a vindication of federalism and democratic accountability.

ALEC and several individually-named state legislators filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the Supreme Court in the case. The brief emphasized the serious risks to federalism, separation of powers and democratically accountable government posed by long-term federal trial court supervision of state and local government institutions. ALEC's brief also reiterated the necessity that states have continued flexibility to pursue educational policy reforms.

"We commend Justice Samuel Alito for authoring a carefully written and excellently reasoned Opinion of the Court in *Flores*," said Seth Cooper, ALEC's Amicus Counsel. "The Court's opinion made clear that federal courts must vigilantly enforce federal law and award necessary relief. But it also recognized that if a durable remedy has been implemented, continued court enforcement is improper. Importantly, the Court showed sensitivity to the delicate constitutional concerns that come with federal courts running state government. The Supreme Court has made clear that federal trial courts themselves must be accountable to court rules before taking the extraordinary step of controlling state or local government institutions."

The Opinion of the Court in *Flores* was authored by Justice Alito on behalf of a 5-4 majority. According to the Court's ruling:

...injunctions issued in such cases often remain in force for many years, and the passage of time frequently brings about changed circumstances—changes in the nature of the underlying problem, changes in governing law or its interpretation by the courts, and new policy insights—that warrant reexamination of the original judgment...;

...[f]ederalism concerns are heightened when, as in these cases, a federal court decree has the effect of dictating state or local budget priorities. States and local governments have limited funds. When a federal court orders that money be appropriated for one program, the effect is often to take funds away from other important programs...;

...[i]njunctions of this sort bind state and local officials to the policy preferences of their predecessors and may thereby “improperly deprive future officials of their designated legislative and executive powers”...;

and

...[a] flexible approach allows courts to ensure that “responsibility for discharging the State’s obligations is returned promptly to the State and its officials”...

Horne v. Flores was consolidated before the Supreme Court with related claims in the case of *Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives and Arizona Senate President v. Flores*. The case arose from an Arizona federal trial court’s injunction involving one of 239 school districts in that state, which the judge later expanded to include the entire state and the state legislature’s appropriations process in a litigation saga lasting fifteen years. The original claims involved the adequacy of English language learner education under federal law. As part of its ruling in *Flores*, the Supreme Court sent the case back to the federal trial court, instructing it to examine legal and factual changes—including educational reforms and increased spending—that have taken place in the time since the trial court first issued its injunction against the school district. The trial court was also ordered to reexamine the basis for expansion of the original injunction to include the entire state of Arizona.

ALEC’s official policies regarding government institutional reform litigation are embodied in its [Resolution on the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act](#). Also, ALEC support for standards and accountability in education policy is expressed in its [Resolution Supporting the Principles of No Child Left Behind](#).

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The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 1, 2009

Contact: Jorge Amselle
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Derek Crawford of Kraft Foods Global, Inc., Joins Board of National Legislators' Organization

Washington, D.C.—The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators, has recently named Derek L. Crawford, District Director for State & Local Government Affairs of Kraft Foods Global, Inc., to its Private Enterprise Board of Directors.

Mr. Crawford also serves as the Private Sector Chairman of ALEC's Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development Task Force and a member of the Tax & Fiscal Task Force Executive Committee.

He came to Kraft Foods in 2007 directly from the company's former parent, Altria. His district covers fifteen states, about 40% of the company's North American production facilities, and its world headquarters. In 2001, he provided state and local government affairs leadership in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska for the Altria Group, Inc. family of companies, which included Philip Morris U.S.A. and Kraft Foods Global, Inc. In 1993, he was appointed Manager for Issues Planning, leading the company's Issues Management Staff and provided leadership and expertise in the development and coordination of strategic action plans addressing external issues impacting the company. He joined Philip Morris USA in 1990 just after working more than six years for the State of Delaware and his home town of Wilmington, DE.

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The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 7, 2009

Contact: Jorge Amselle
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Kevin Murphy, Manager of U.S. Government Relations at ExxonMobil Corporation Joins Board of National Legislators' Organization

Washington, D.C.—The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators, has recently named Kevin Murphy, Manager of U.S. Government Relations at ExxonMobil Corporation, to its Private Enterprise Board of Directors.

Prior to joining ExxonMobil, Mr. Murphy held several political and government positions in Washington, D.C., including as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy & Environmental Technologies in the International Trade Administration.

Mr. Murphy resides in Dallas, Texas. He is on the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council of Dallas-Fort Worth and the North Texas Commission, a 2008 German Marshall Fund Fellow (American Marshall Memorial Fellowship), and is active in several other community and professional organizations.

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The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
July 21, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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ALEC Announces 2009 Award Recipients

(Atlanta, GA)— The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) recognized leaders from across the nation at their 36th Annual Meeting in Atlanta July 15 through 18. In all, 17 leaders were recognized with awards from ALEC. Representative Earl Ehrhart of Georgia received the ALEC Leadership Award for Limited Government and Free Enterprise. Bob Ingram, of GlaxoSmithKline received the Adam Smith Free Enterprise Award, and Representative Harold Brubaker of North Carolina received the William J. Raggio Excellence in Leadership and Outstanding Service Award.

Recipients of the 2009 Legislator of the Year Award were Representative Leah Vukmir of Wisconsin, Delegate Chris Shank of Maryland, Representative Blair Thoreson of North Dakota, Senator Wayne Niederhauser of Utah, Representative Jim Clark of Idaho, Representative Tom Graves of Georgia, Senator Jim Buck of Indiana, Delegate Adelaide Eckardt of Maryland, and Rep. Theodore (Ted) Hoskins of Missouri. Member of European Parliament Daniel Hannan was named ALEC's International Legislator of the Year.

Recognized as Private Sector Member of the Year were Mr. Toby Spangler of Altria, Ms. Tracie Sharp of the State Policy Network, Ms. Meredith Melvin Weaver of Verizon Wireless, and Mr. Pat Thomas of UPS.

Former U.S. Senator and Georgia Governor Zell Miller, Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and many other notable policy leaders addressed an audience of nearly 1,600 state legislators and business leaders at the [American Legislative Exchange Council's](#) 36th Annual Meeting held July 15 to 18 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

“The Annual Meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council provides a unique opportunity for legislators from all 50 states to come together to discuss policy solutions collectively along with public-policy experts and the private sector,” said Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, Bill Howell, ALEC's 2009 National Chairman. “ALEC's process of producing principled model legislation is unparalleled among its type,” he added.

Other notable speakers included: Dr. Art Laffer and Stephen Moore, co-authors of ALEC's *Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index*; syndicated radio host Herman Cain; and Daniel Hannan (MEP).

Featured workshops included:

- Medical Innovation
- Higher Education
- Energy and Economic Recovery
- Virtual Learning
- Transparency in the States
- E-Discovery
- The Politics of Climate Change
- Saving America's Election System

Most of the business conducted at ALEC occurs in one of its nine Task Forces which include; Health and Human Services; Natural Resources; Education; Tax and Fiscal Policy; Public Safety and Elections; Civil Justice; Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development; Telecommunications and Information Technology; and International Relations. These Task Forces have considered, written, and approved hundreds of model bills, offering real policy solutions for states on a wide range of issues. Each year, state legislatures consider close to 1,000 bills that are based, at least in part, on ALEC Model Legislation. Hundreds of these bills are enacted every year.

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The [American Legislative Exchange Council](http://www.alec.org) (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators. www.alec.org

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
July 30, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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State Legislators Say “No” to ObamaCare
Nationwide Effort to Preserve States’ Rights; Stop Single-Payer

Washington, D.C. — The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) has delivered a [letter to Congress](#) on behalf of more than 1,800 state legislators opposing federal reform efforts—particularly, the Medicare-modeled “public plan” and a national health insurance exchange—which will trample states’ rights and lead Americans down the road to single-payer health care. In addition, legislators from 41 states signed on individually to emphasize their opposition.

The members of ALEC—the nation’s largest nonpartisan, individual membership association of state legislators—recently approved the [Resolution on Preserving States’ Rights Regarding Federal Health Insurance Exchanges and a Public Plan](#), which deems the federal public plan anti-competitive and calls the proposed national health insurance exchange a “federal takeover” of the states’ role in regulating health insurance.

“The government will never compete unless it can change the rules to win,” says Iowa Representative [Linda Upmeyer](#), minority whip, family nurse practitioner, and chair of [ALEC’s Health and Human Services Task Force](#). “It’s an unlevel playing field when a public plan can shift costs to our state’s private insurers because of low doctor and hospital reimbursement rates, and then raid the federal Treasury for unlimited subsidies,” she added.

In the ALEC letter to Congress, ALEC’s lawmakers criticized the federal push to shift health care decision-making to Washington. “We all share the goal that patients deserve to choose their own quality, affordable, private health coverage,” the letter states. “But health reform shouldn’t just be the job of the federal government.”

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The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) is the nation’s largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
September 3, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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State Legislators Oppose Cell Phone Tax

Washington, DC—Today the [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC), the nation's largest individual membership association of state legislators, urged the IRS Commissioner to suspend audit enforcement of a tax provision which requires individuals to track calls on their employer-provided cell phones or face income tax liabilities for the use of such cell phones.

ALEC called for tax treatment of cell phones that better reflects integration of wireless technology in American businesses. ALEC submitted Comments to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in response to a recent IRS bulletin concerning business use of employer-provided cell phones.

In its [Comments to the IRS](#), ALEC maintained that the federal Tax Code's treatment of employer-provided cell phones as listed property subject to individual income taxation creates burdensome tax reporting requirements. Pursuant to a 1989 Tax Code provision, an employer has to report an employee's personal cell phone usage as income on an employee's W-2, unless the employee meets detailed documentation rules. ALEC urged the IRS Commissioner to suspend all auditing respecting personal use of employer-provided cell phones, pending Congressional resolution of these difficulties. ALEC also declared its support for repealing this provision of the Tax Code.

"The Tax Code's treatment of employee business use of cell phones needs to be brought into the Twenty-first Century," said Seth Cooper, Director of ALEC's Telecommunications & Information Technology Task Force. "Wide availability of unlimited minute cell phone calling plans renders twenty year-old provisions in the Tax Code totally outdated and unworkable. It makes no sense to have the IRS require employees to document the time and purpose of every call made from their business cell phones just to avoid additional tax." ALEC's Comments were submitted by Cooper and by Jonathan Williams, Director of ALEC's Tax & Fiscal Policy Task Force.

In its Statement of Principles for Telecommunications Tax Reform, ALEC declares that "A tax system must be practical to administer with reasonable compliance costs." ALEC recently adopted its Resolution Urging Congress to Update Tax Treatment of Cell Phones. The Resolution recognizes the expense and difficulty for employees to maintain logs documenting use of cell phones provided by their employers.

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The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
September 17, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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State Legislators Oppose Expanded Unemployment Mandates
Federal mandates on state unemployment insurance are the wrong use of stimulus funds

Washington, D.C.—The [American Legislative Exchange Council](http://www.alec.org) (ALEC), the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership association of state legislators, recently passed a *Resolution Opposing Federal Mandates on Unemployment Insurance*. The resolution opposes the required federal changes which would expand eligibility of unemployment insurance and move the system toward a federally controlled social welfare program.

Governors of several states, including Alaska, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and South Carolina, have already indicated they will reject federal stimulus funds because the American Recovery Reinvestment Act, ARRA, required changes to state laws which will increase spending, result in increased taxes, and create future budget liabilities. ALEC legislators strongly oppose forcing states, as a condition of federal funding, to change state unemployment insurance laws.

“The federal government is encroaching into our every day lives at an alarming rate, from dictating how we teach our children to funding federal initiatives that many believe to be immoral, over-regulating and taxing our citizenry, meddling in our personal lives and interfering with the affairs of our state. We must stop this unchecked growth of the government before it's too late. State legislators must lead the fight because the power the federal government is illegally assuming is ours,” said Mississippi State Representative Steve Palazzo, and ALEC member.

The federal government's meddling in state unemployment insurance eligibility is a misuse of stimulus funds, and a violation of the powers explicitly reserved for the states in the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

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The [American Legislative Exchange Council](http://www.alec.org) (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
September 10, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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States to Lose Big Under Cap and Trade: ALEC Ranks the 10 Biggest Losers

Washington, DC—The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC), the nations largest individual membership association of state legislators, has just release a ranking the states that stand to lose the most from the Waxman-Markey “Cap and Trade” bill. The economic impacts of this new energy tax legislation are not only devastating to the national economy, but they represent an uneven burden for states.

The cost of paying for this legislation will fall to all Americans, but it will burden some states more than others. Some states will pay higher gas prices than others while some will suffer greater job losses. What accounts for the disparities? Certainly the makeup of local economies plays a role, but the language of the Waxman-Markey bill itself picks winners and losers as the details of permit allocation and other provisions reflect compromise deals with lawmakers and industries. The result is a high cost distributed unevenly and unfairly.

DRAFT “Many states, like mine, have passed strict environmental standards on their own and are suffering the consequences of lost business opportunities and worsening economies,” said Connecticut State Representative John Piscopo. “The best that can be said for a federal cap and trade bill is that it makes all states suffer, although clearly unevenly,” he added.

Using [state-level data published recently by the Heritage Foundation](#), ALEC has ranked the states based on four measures of average annual economic loss as a result of Waxman-Markey: job loss, gross state product loss per capita, electricity cost increases, and gas price increases.

Top Ten “Biggest Losers” Overall

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Connecticut | 4. Penn. | 9. New Jersey |
| 2. California | 6. Texas | 10. Maryland |
| 3. Hawaii | 7. Mass. | 10. New York |
| 4. Ohio | 8. N. Carolina | |

[Check out the rankings and cost for every state at ALEC's Web site](#)

ALEC members have actively opposed “Cap and Trade” legislation as a costly expansion of federal power that will plague America’s economy with fraud, waste and inefficiency. According to Tennessee State Representative Susan Lynn, “State Legislators see how our constituents are suffering with fear of losing their job, unemployment, and the unstable economy, now the federal government wants to enact Low Carbon Fuel Standards which would further hurt consumers and do nothing to lower actual carbon emissions.” Alaska State Senator Lesil McGuire, who serves as the Chair of the Senate Special Committee on Energy said, “Working and middle-class families across the country would absorb much of the cost of this complex climate change law.”

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The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
September 22, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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FCC Power Grab of Internet Traffic: State Legislators Express Doubts Regarding Chairman's Statements

Washington, DC—The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC), the nation's largest individual membership association of state legislators, is expressing serious doubts about troubling new plans by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to control Internet traffic by imposing so-called "network neutrality" regulations. The Internet should be kept free from regulations that stifle investment in Internet infrastructure and limit freedom of speech.

"ALEC believes that a free and open Internet is best guaranteed by marketplace competition, not by government regulation," said Connecticut State Rep. William Hamzy, Co-Chairman of ALEC's Telecommunications & Information Technology Task Force. "Consumers should have access to their choice of legal Internet content, but there is simply no evidence of any problem requiring such far-reaching governmental intrusion. Pretended future dangers are a poor excuse for any attempt by the FCC to make itself the Internet's traffic controller. Bureaucratic second-guessing of network management decisions by broadband providers will only serve to chill Internet innovation and investment."

ALEC's call for continuation of the federal government's "hands off" policy toward the Internet comes in response to FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski's announced plans to impose network management regulations on wireline and wireless broadband providers.

"Any 'network neutrality' regulations imposed on broadband service providers are likely beyond the statutory authority of the FCC, since Congress has not given the FCC authority to meticulously regulate traffic on information services like the Internet," said Seth Cooper, ALEC's Telecommunications & Information Technology Task Force Director. "Such regulations are also likely unconstitutional under the First Amendment because they control and mandate speech travelling through a modern medium."

ALEC's official opposition to government-imposed "network neutrality" regulations is expressed in its *Resolution on Network Neutrality*. The *Resolution* affirms that the exponential growth of the Internet is a result of "the government's 'hands off' approach, ever increasing competition, as well as fierce consumer interest." The *Resolution* also recognizes that "companies that invest in broadband and broadband-related applications should be afforded the flexibility to explore fair and competitive business models and pricing plans for their products and services."

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The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
October 13, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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State Legislators Call on States to Defund ACORN

Washington, D.C.—Congress has already voted to defund the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, otherwise known as ACORN, and the IRS and Census Bureau have severed their relationships with the organization as well. However, ACORN, which according to their Web site maintains “more than 1,200 neighborhood chapters in about 75 cities,” continues to receive taxpayer money through the states.

The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC), the nation’s largest non-partisan, individual membership association of state legislators, has identified several states which provide funding for ACORN and its affiliates, including New York (\$415,000), Pennsylvania (\$205,000), Georgia (\$104,000), and Illinois (\$100,000). In response, ALEC’s members have passed a [resolution](#) calling on all states to conduct audits to identify and immediately end all funding to ACORN and its affiliates.

In Pennsylvania, State Rep. [Stephen Barrar](#) has already introduced legislation to bar ACORN and other political organizations from receiving state funds. “ACORN has proven time and time again that it is not worthy of our trust or our financial support,” said Barrar. “This organization continues to display unethical and unlawful behavior, and it is time for the Pennsylvania Legislature to take action. The taxpayers of our Commonwealth work too hard to give their money to an agency that disrespects our laws. My efforts are about the responsible use of taxpayer money.”

Policymakers in Georgia, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Rhode Island have also taken action to prevent any funding for ACORN. ALEC’s Public Safety and Elections Task Force Chairman, State Rep. [Paul Ray](#) (UT), commented, “Over the past few years ACORN has continually violated the trust of the American people and the law. This includes allegations of voter registration fraud, videos of ACORN employees willfully assisting in tax evasion, child prostitution, and even obtaining federal fire protection grants in Louisiana in which they did not meet the requirements and were not qualified to receive.”

Other ALEC members had similar comments including State Rep. [Gary Banz](#) (OK), who said that, “The recent revelations of ACORN activity calls into question their mission and the appropriateness of any taxpayer funds being given to them.” And in Indiana, State Rep. [Bill Ruppel](#) said, “During a recession, it is imperative that we take the time to look closely at how state funds are allocated and how taxpayer dollars are spent. This Resolution calls on the states to do that and defund ACORN, an organization which has misused and misspent our taxpayer dollars.” ALEC will continue to work with its members during the next legislative session to identify and remove state funding for ACORN and its affiliates.

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The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
October 20, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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**State Tax Policy Expert to Testify on
Income Tax Proposal in New Hampshire**

Concord, NH—State tax policy expert, Jonathan Williams, will be testifying at a New Hampshire House Ways and Means Committee Seminar this week regarding recent proposals to establish a state income tax. Williams is the Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force Director at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), and a co-author of the report, *Rich States, Poor States: The ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index*.

“States cannot tax their way to prosperity. New Hampshire currently enjoys a huge competitive advantage over all of its neighbors as the only state in the Northeast without an income tax,” said Williams. “My co-authors, renowned economist Dr. Arthur Laffer and Stephen Moore of *The Wall Street Journal*, and I analyzed how economic competitiveness drives income, population and job growth in the states. We found that states with a high and rising tax burden (e.g. California and New York) are more likely to suffer through economic decline, while those with lower and falling tax burdens are more likely to enjoy robust economic growth,” he added.

According to Williams, “We specifically compared economic growth in the nine states without a personal income tax to the nine states with the highest income taxes. We found that the no-income tax states grew both their economies and their populations at a far faster rate.” Representative Gary Daniels, ALEC’s New Hampshire State Chairman, has also commented on the state’s economy saying, “The best solution to our budget woes is to control state spending and promote policies that foster economic growth and job creation.”

This seminar will be open to the media and the public.

**The House Ways and Means Committee
Wednesday, October 21 at 9 a.m.
Legislative Office Building. Rooms 202-204**

**To schedule an interview with Jonathan Williams please call (202) 557-8484 or
E-mail at jwilliams@alec.org.**

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The [American Legislative Exchange Council](http://www.alec.org) (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan, individual membership organization of state legislators.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
October 27, 2009

Contact: Jorge Amselle
(202) 742-8536
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Kansas Becomes Latest State to Defend Health Care Choice

Washington, D.C.—The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC), the nation's largest individual membership association of state legislators, congratulates Kansas Representatives Peggy Mast and Brenda Landwehr and Kansas Senator Mary Pilcher Cook for announcing their intent to introduce a constitutional amendment to protect the right of individuals to make their own health care choices. Kansas now becomes the 19th state where legislators have introduced, or will introduce, legislation modeled after ALEC's *Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act*.

"Federal health care reform efforts may include a requirement that individuals purchase health insurance, and a so called 'public option' which will result in less choices for consumers and new government mandates," said Iowa Representative [Linda Upmeyer](#), minority whip, family nurse practitioner, and chair of [ALEC's Health and Human Services Task Force](#). "Americans don't need more government mandates, we need real consumer choice. ALEC's *Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act* is designed to protect individual rights and our freedom to purchase health insurance of our choice, or not," she added.

The Kansas constitutional amendment preserves the rights of individuals to pay directly for medical care—something not allowed in single-payer countries like Canada—and prohibits any individual from being penalized for not purchasing government-defined insurance. Any state attempt to require an individual to purchase health insurance—or forbid an individual from purchasing services outside of the required health care system—would be rendered unconstitutional. The measure may also cause a federalism clash if Congress passes a law with either of these provisions.

Kansas now joins legislators in seven states (AK, GA, LA, MO, MS, NH, and UT) that have already publicly announced their intention to file legislation to protect their citizens from any health care mandates. Another 11 states have already filed or pre-filed similar legislation (AZ, FL, IN, MN, ND, NM, MI, OH, PA, WV, WY). Arizona's measure, which passed the legislature in June, will be put before voters on the 2010 ballot.

"ALEC members in the states are also working to enact real health care reform solutions that can—as President Obama has called for—increase competition, reduce costs and expand coverage. These include allowing consumers to purchase health insurance across state lines, providing tax relief for individuals to purchase health insurance, and a cost-benefit review of any government mandated insurance benefits," said Christie Herrera, director of ALEC's Health and Human Services Task Force.

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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
November 2, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
(202) 742-8536
jamselle@alec.org**

States Choosing Real Opt-Out of Health Care Bill

Washington, D.C. — The latest version of a national health care reform bill in Congress now includes an “opt-out” option for states. While all the details of this provision are still unclear it is likely that states will be allowed to opt out of the benefits of the legislation but not the costs or burdensome regulations for businesses and individuals.

The “opt-out” provision may well have been added in response to 19 states which have already taken action, or declared their intent, to opt out of federal health care mandates. The actions in these states are aimed specifically at protecting the rights of individuals and should not be confused with the false opt-out choice in the current congressional bill.

Legislators in eight states (AK, GA, KS, LA, MO, MS, NH, and UT) have publicly announced their intention to file legislation to protect their citizens from any health care mandates. Another 11 states have already filed or pre-filed similar legislation (AZ, FL, IN, MN, ND, NM, MI, OH, PA, WV, WY). Arizona’s measure, which passed the legislature in June, will be put before voters on the 2010 ballot.

These bills are being filed as constitutional amendments, aimed at preserving the rights of individuals to pay directly for medical care—something not allowed in single-payer countries like Canada—and prohibit any individual from being penalized for not purchasing government-defined insurance. Any attempt to require an individual to purchase health insurance—or forbid an individual from purchasing services outside of the required health care system—would be rendered unconstitutional. This also may cause a federalism clash if Congress passes a law with either of these provisions.

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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
November 5, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
(202) 742-8536
jamselle@alec.org**

Montana Now 20th State to Defend Health Care Choice

Washington, D.C.—The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC), the nation's largest individual membership association of state legislators, congratulates Montana State Senators [Jim Shockley](#) and [Greg Hinkle](#) for announcing their intent to introduce a constitutional amendment to protect the right of individuals to make their own health care choices. Montana now becomes the 20th state where legislators have introduced, or will introduce, legislation modeled after ALEC's *Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act*. **The formal announcement will occur on Thursday, November 5 at Noon on the [Yellowstone County Courthouse](#) lawn at 217 N. 27th Street, in Billings.**

"We all recognize the need to help make medical care and health insurance more affordable and accessible for more people," said Iowa Representative [Linda Upmeyer](#), minority whip, family nurse practitioner, and chair of [ALEC's Health and Human Services Task Force](#). "However, creating new mandates for individuals and employers will not reduce costs or increase competition, it will trample on the rights of individuals to make their own health care choices and hurt our economy," she added.

The Montana constitutional amendment preserves the rights of individuals to pay directly for medical care—something not allowed in single-payer countries like Canada—and prohibits any individual from being penalized for not purchasing government-defined insurance. Any state attempt to require an individual to purchase health insurance—or forbid an individual from purchasing services outside of the required health care system—would be rendered unconstitutional. The measure may also cause a federalism clash if Congress passes a law with either of these provisions.

"This is not a battle that hasn't been fought before or won before," said Christie Herrera, health policy director for the American Legislative Exchange Council, a state legislator group coordinating the effort.

"States are allowed to give greater constitutional protection than what is provided for in the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Constitution provides a floor, not a ceiling, for the preservation of individual rights," Herrera added.

Montana now joins legislators in eight states (AK, GA, KS, LA, MO, MS, NH, and UT) that have already publicly announced their intention to file legislation to protect their citizens from any health care mandates. Another 11 states have already filed or pre-filed similar legislation (AZ, FL, IN, MN, ND, NM, MI, OH, PA, WV, WY). Arizona's measure, which passed the legislature in June, will be put before voters on the 2010 ballot.

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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
November 23, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
(202) 742-8536
jamselle@alec.org**

South Carolina Now 24th State to Defend Health Care Choice

Washington, D.C.—The [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC), the nation's largest individual membership association of state legislators, congratulates South Carolina State [Representative Tim Scott](#) for pre-filing a [constitutional amendment](#) to protect the right of individuals to make their own health care choices. South Carolina now becomes the 24th state where legislators have introduced, or will introduce, legislation modeled after ALEC's *Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act*.

"Congress should not expect the states to blindly accept a federal health care reform bill that just keeps getting longer and more complicated at every turn. We know that creating new mandates for individuals and employers will not reduce costs or increase competition, it will trample on the rights of individuals to make their own health care choices and hurt our economy," said Iowa Representative [Linda Upmeyer](#), minority whip, family nurse practitioner, and chair of [ALEC's Health and Human Services Task Force](#).

The proposed South Carolina constitutional amendment preserves the rights of individuals to pay directly for medical care—something not allowed in single-payer countries like Canada—and prohibits any individual from being penalized for not purchasing government-defined insurance. Any state attempt to require an individual to purchase health insurance—or forbid an individual from purchasing services outside of the required health care system—would be rendered unconstitutional. The measure may also cause a federalism clash if Congress passes a law with either of these provisions.

"This is not a battle that hasn't been fought before or won before," said Christie Herrera, health policy director for the American Legislative Exchange Council, a state legislator group coordinating the effort.

"States are allowed to give greater constitutional protection than what is provided for in the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Constitution provides a floor, not a ceiling, for the preservation of individual rights," Herrera added.

Similar constitutional amendments have been filed or pre-filed in twelve states—Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Wyoming. An additional twelve states have indicated their intent to introduce this legislation—Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Montana, Tennessee, and Utah. Arizona's measure, which passed the legislature in June, will be put before voters on the 2010 ballot.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:
November 30, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
(202) 742-8536 or
Cell: (202) 669-9910**

Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH); Senator John Barrasso (R-WY); Representative Eric Cantor (R-VA); Tucker Carlson and Others to Speak at National Gathering of State Legislators in Washington, D.C.

(Washington, D.C.)—The American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) annual States & Nation Policy Summit will be held December 2-4, 2009, at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, 1000 H Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C.

State legislators from across the United States will gather for three days to discuss critical issues facing the states and nation, share their knowledge and experiences with each other, and hear from national leaders and renowned policy experts who share their commitment to limited government and free market policy solutions.

“ALEC is the main resource for state legislators interested in learning about free-market public policy and the only national organization that brings together the public and private sector as equal partners in debating and discussing model legislation for the states,” said Speaker Bill Howell of the Virginia House of Delegates and ALEC's 2009 National Chairman.

ALEC conferences are renowned for developing cutting edge legislative policy and garnering top policy speakers. This year's speakers include: Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH); Senator John Barrasso (R-WY); Representative Eric Cantor (R-VA); Tucker Carlson, Senior Fellow with the Cato Institute; Mark Mills, Forbes columnist; and Dr. Russell Roberts, Professor of Economics at George Mason University. Speakers will address how states can work towards balanced budgets and fiscal responsibility, as well as how impending federal legislation will affect the states.

Legislators may also attend in-depth policy workshops. This year's topics include: Success in Higher Education; Innovation in Women's Health; How to Reduce Prison Populations; Using Technology to Nurture Minds; Overcoming Barriers to Budget Transparency; and the Dynamics of Broadband Investment.

A full Agenda is available online at www.alec.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=SNPS_Agenda. Media are welcome to attend all meal sessions and workshops. To pre-register, or for additional information, please contact Jorge Amselle at (202) 742-8536, jamselle@alec.org, or on-site by cell at (202) 669-9910.

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**For Immediate Release:
November 30, 2009**

**Contact: Jorge Amselle
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Craddick to Serve As ALEC 2010 National Chairman

(Washington, D.C.) – Representative Tom Craddick (R-Midland, Texas), has officially taken office as the 2010 National Chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) Board of Directors. ALEC's annual States & Nation Policy Summit will be held December 2-4, 2009, at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, 1000 H Street Northwest, Washington, D.C.

"I am honored by the members of ALEC naming me as the national chairman and will do my best to uphold ALEC's mission and vision of limited government, free markets, federalism, and individual liberty," Craddick said. "Speaker Howell has done a tremendous job and is to be commended for his leadership and service as ALEC's national chairman. Like him, I will work to unite public and private sector members in our common goals and continue to promote conservative policies through research, model legislation, and informative programs."

Craddick is a long-time member of ALEC and has served as the first vice chairman and the national secretary of the executive board of directors. Since becoming a member of the executive board of directors in 2004, he has crafted model legislation, much of which has gone on to influence laws in Texas. ALEC has seen a dramatic rise in membership recruitment in Texas, due in large part to Craddick's efforts, making it one of ALEC's strongest states.

In 2008, Craddick received the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) William J. Raggio Excellence in Leadership and Outstanding Service Award. The award is given to a leader who demonstrates a long-term commitment to serving others, while showing strong, small-government, Jeffersonian principles.

Craddick has been a member of the Texas House of Representatives since 1969. In 2003, he became the first republican speaker of the Texas House of Representatives in more than 130 years. During his tenure as speaker from January 2003 through January 2009, Craddick and the Legislature overcame a \$10 billion budget shortfall, produced model ethics, insurance, tort and transportation reforms, made historic cuts in property taxes, restructured public school finance, and added urgent improvements to Texas' public schools.

Craddick is a sales representative for Mustang Mud/Newpark Resource, an oilfield supply company, he owns Craddick Properties, a Midland investment business, and he is president of Craddick, Inc. He and his wife, Nadine, have two children and two grandchildren.

The ALEC Board of Directors selects the national chairman at its annual meeting each summer. The chairman takes office at the States & Nation Policy Summit in December and serves for one year.

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November 30, 2009**

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Cell: (202) 669-9910**

FCC Commissioner to Address State Legislators

(Washington, D.C.)— Commissioner Robert McDowell of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will deliver the keynote address at the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) workshop "Dynamics of Broadband Investment: The \$350 Billion Question," during its annual States & Nation Policy Summit will be held December 2-4, 2009, at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, 1000 H Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C.

This workshop will be held on Friday, December 4, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., and will focus on the importance of marketplace investment in broadband infrastructure in deploying high-speed broadband services across America. Commissioner McDowell's keynote will be followed by a debate on the potential impacts on private investment in broadband infrastructure and on the proper role of government concerning technology.

At ALEC's States & Nation Policy Summit, state legislators from across the country gather to discuss critical issues facing the states and nation, share their knowledge and experiences with each other, and hear from national leaders and renowned policy experts who share their commitment to limited government and free market policy solutions.

"ALEC is the main resource for state legislators interested in learning about free-market public policy and the only national organization that brings together the public and private sector as equal partners in debating and discussing model legislation for the states," said Speaker Bill Howell of the Virginia House of Delegates and ALEC's 2009 National Chairman.

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