

ALEC EXPOSED

"ALEC" has long been a secretive collaboration between Big Business and "conservative" politicians. Behind closed doors, they ghostwrite "model" bills to be introduced in state capitols across the country. This agenda—underwritten by global corporations—includes major tax loopholes for big industries and the super rich, proposals to offshore U.S. jobs and gut minimum wage, and efforts to weaken public health, safety, and environmental protections. Although many of these bills have become law, until now, their origin has been largely unknown. With **ALEC EXPOSED**, the Center for Media and Democracy hopes more Americans will study the bills to understand the depth and breadth of how big corporations are changing the legal rules and undermining democracy across the nation.

ALEC's Corporate Board —in recent past or present

- AT&T Services, Inc.
- centerpoint360
- UPS
- Bayer Corporation
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Energy Future Holdings
- Johnson & Johnson
- Coca-Cola Company
- PhRMA
- Kraft Foods, Inc.
- Coca-Cola Co.
- Pfizer Inc.
- Reed Elsevier, Inc.
- DIAGEO
- Peabody Energy
- Intuit, Inc.
- Koch Industries, Inc.
- ExxonMobil
- Verizon
- Reynolds American Inc.
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- Salt River Project
- Altria Client Services, Inc.
- American Bail Coalition
- State Farm Insurance

For more on these corporations, search at www.SourceWatch.org.

DID YOU KNOW? Corporations VOTED to adopt this. Through ALEC, global companies work as "equals" in "unison" with politicians to write laws to govern your life. Big Business has "a VOICE and a VOTE," according to newly exposed documents. **DO YOU?**

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Parental Accountability Act

Did you know the NRA--the National Rifle Association--was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

Summary

This bill requires that the parent or guardian of a juvenile attend each court hearing or proceeding unless the court excuses the parent or guardian for good cause shown. Failure of the parent or guardian to appear shall not be considered grounds for relief/adjournment, but may be grounds for contempt.

Model Legislation

Section 1. {Title} This Act shall be known as the Parental Accountability Act.

Section 2. {Model Legislation}

The parent or guardian of a juvenile who is within the court's jurisdiction¹ shall attend each hearing or proceeding unless the court excuses the parent or guardian for good cause² shown. A parent or guardian who fails to attend the juvenile's hearing without good cause shown may be held in contempt and subject to fines.³ Failure of a parent or guardian to attend a hearing is not, however, grounds for an adjournment, continuance, or other delay of the proceeding and does not provide the basis for appellate or other relief.

Section 3. {Severability Clause}

Section 4. {Repealer Clause}

Section 5. {Effective Date}

ENDNOTES

- 1 Cite statutory authority for jurisdiction of juvenile court or probate court.
- 2 Review appropriate state statute regarding parental notification in juvenile criminal proceedings. If one exists, cite here. Otherwise, Act needs explicit definition of what shall be considered "good cause."
- 3 In some states, a judicial finding of contempt might subject accused's parents to incarceration.

ALEC's Sourcebook of American State Legislation 1996

About Us and ALEC EXPOSED. The Center for Media and Democracy reports on corporate spin and government propaganda. We are located in Madison, Wisconsin, and publish www.PRWatch.org, www.SourceWatch.org, and now www.ALECExposed.org. For more information contact: editor@prwatch.org or 608-260-9713.

Center for Media and Democracy's quick summary

While encouraging parents to attend their child's trial is a good idea, this model bill suggests why for-profit corporations should not be writing sentencing and criminal justice laws. A sizeable percentage of juvenile offenders do not have strong family structures (which may have contributed to their delinquency), and this law apparently fails to acknowledge that. This law will likely be unenforceable or, in the alternative, will stick more people with more opportunities to have unpaid fines. More laws do not mean less crime.