

Resolution

Opposing the Agenda of the American Legislative Exchange Council - ALEC

Whereas the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is a privately-funded collaborative of businesses that works in secrecy with conservative state legislators and national leaders to draft identically-worded, business-friendly state legislation without acknowledgement of the source; and

Whereas ALEC gets almost 98 percent of its funding from sources other than legislators' dues, such as corporations, trade associations, and corporate foundations, raising more than \$21 million from corporations and only \$250,000 from state legislators' dues from 2009 – 2011; and

Whereas ALEC seeks to make public employees scapegoats for the abuses and failures of business and Wall Street firms and attacks public-service jobs and pensions through its “model” legislation on privatizing public services and replacing public pensions with defined contribution plans; and

Whereas ALEC's members support privatization of public schools through vouchers, tuition tax credits, and charters that would open the door for more corporate profits from the nation's tax-payer supported education system; and

Whereas ALEC’s members are actively promoting the funding of for-profit “virtual schools” at the same level as brick-and-mortar schools, that would create even more profit opportunities for ALEC’s corporate clients; and

Whereas ALEC members have taken extreme anti-union positions and have promoted legislation that would end such union rights as paycheck dues deduction, fair share fees, and even collective bargaining, while also urging reduction or elimination of pensions and pension security for public employees; and

Whereas Common Cause has requested the investigation of ALEC’s dubious classification as a Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization; and

Whereas major corporate sponsors have left ALEC in droves in the wake of the shooting death of Trayvon Martin under Florida’s Stand Your Ground law, which was based on ALEC’s model gun legislation; and

Whereas since its founding over 30 years ago, ALEC has operated under the radar, keeping its enormous influence hidden and its fingerprints off of the harsh policies it promotes.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans, its members and affiliates, go on record in opposition to ALEC’s anti-government, anti-union agenda; and

Be it further resolved that Alliance for Retired Americans supports a campaign to actively oppose ALEC’s agenda, a campaign that will inform members about ALEC and

encourage them to share information with fellow voters about why the Alliance for Retired Americans opposes ALEC and its hidden agenda; and

Be it finally resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans supports and participates in efforts to remove ALEC's tax exempt status, require legislators to report their membership in ALEC, and make certain that any elected official who receives either direct or indirect financial support from ALEC -- including travel, dues, per diems, scholarships, grants and similar payments -- is exposed.