



What Is ALEC And Why Should We Be Concerned?

♦ What is ALEC? American Legislative Exchange Council.

ALEC is not a lobby; it is not a front group. It is much more powerful than that.

♦ Who funds ALEC?

More than 98% of ALEC's revenues come from sources other than legislative dues, Such as: the Koch family Charles G. Koch Foundation, Claude R. Lambe Foundation, , the Scaife family Allegheny Foundation and the Coors family Castle Rock Foundation, to name a few. Along with other corporations, corporate trade groups, and corporate foundations.

♦ Is it nonpartisan as claimed?

ALEC describes itself as a non-partisan, non-profit organization. The facts show that it currently has one Democrat out of 104 legislators in leadership positions.

♦ What goes on behind closed doors?

The organization boasts 2,000 legislative members and 300 or more corporate members. The unelected corporate representatives (often registered lobbyists) sit as equals with elected representatives on nine task forces where they have a "voice and a vote" on model legislation.

♦ How do corporations benefit?

Although ALEC claims to take an ideological stance (of supposedly Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty)', many of the model bills benefit the corporations whose agents write them, shape them, and/or vote to approve them.

♦ How do legislators benefit?

Why would a legislator be interested in advancing cookie-cutter bills that are corporate giveaways for global firms located outside of their district?

♦ Is it lobbying?

In most ordinary people's view, handing bills to legislators so they can introduce them is the very definition of lobbying.

♦ Is it legal?

ALEC's operating model raises many ethical and legal concerns.



[Read The Full Story About ALEC Being Exposed.](#)

Click On This Picture To Watch This Atlanta TV Station Expose
ALEC's Influence On Local Georgia Legislators.
This Happens Throughout the United States.

No RI General Assembly Members are ALEC members.



Legislation in R.I. to limit payday loans may be dead this year

By Katherine Gregg
Journal State House Bureau



LENDING REFORM

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — As recently as 2012, payday loans were a hot-button issue on Smith Hill.

Rhode Island was the only New England state that allowed storefront lenders to charge triple-digit interest rates. The AARP and others turned out in droves to beg lawmakers to rein in the annualized interest-rate charges of up to 260 percent. And they came close.

Three years later, Rhode Island is still the only state in New England that allows such high rates on payday loans, the advocacy group known as the Economic Progress Institute told lawmakers again this past week.

And if the turnout for Wednesday night's House Finance Committee hearing on a proposed 36-percent rate cap is any indication, the payday lending reform drive that nearly passed in 2012, is dead again this year, dampened by House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello's open skepticism about the need for reform.

As Mattiello said again Friday: "The case has not been made to me to terminate an industry in our state. The arguments against payday lending tend to be ideological in nature. No alternatives have been offered to serve the consumers that rely upon this type of lending. I believe the consumer that utilizes this service appreciates it and wants it to continue."

Payday lenders in Rhode Island can provide loans of up to \$500 and charge 10 percent of the loan value. The loans are typically for two weeks and secured with a post-dated check. For a \$500 loan, for example, the borrower would write a check for \$550. If the borrower cannot repay the loan, he or she can roll it over and then borrow again and again and again to cover the original loan in amounts that add up to an annual interest rate of 260 percent. ... [Read More](#)

Side Note: Senior Citizens and the Disabled are prime targets for this type of lending.

Here's How Much Corporations Paid US Senators to Fast-Track the TPP Bill

By C. Robert Gibson and Taylor Channing, Guardian UK

Critics of the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership are unlikely to be silenced by an analysis of the flood of money it took to push the pact over its latest hurdle

A decade in the making, the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is reaching its climax and as Congress hotly debates the biggest trade deal in a generation, its backers have turned on the cash spigot in the hopes of getting it passed.

"We're very much in the endgame," US trade representative Michael Froman told reporters over the weekend at a meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum on the resort island of Boracay. His comments came days after TPP passed another **crucial vote** in the Senate.

That vote, to give Barack Obama the authority to speed the bill through Congress, comes as the president's own supporters, senior economists and a host of activists have lobbied against a pact they argue will favor big business but **harm US jobs**, fail to secure better conditions for **workers overseas** and undermine **free speech** online.

Those critics are unlikely to be silenced by an analysis of the sudden flood of money it took to push the pact over its latest hurdle.

Fast-tracking the TPP, meaning its passage through Congress without having its contents available for debate or amendments, was only possible after lots of corporate money exchanged hands with senators. The US Senate passed Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) – the fast-tracking bill – **by a 65-33 margin** on 14 May. Last Thursday, the Senate voted 62-38 to **bring the debate on TPA** to a close.

Those impressive majorities follow months of behind-the-scenes wheeling and dealing by the world's most well-heeled multinational corporations with just a handful of holdouts.

Using data from the Federal Election Commission, **this chart** shows all donations that corporate members of the **US Business Coalition for TPP** made to US Senate campaigns between January and March 2015, when fast-tracking the TPP was being debated in the Senate. ... [Read More](#) **The two RI Senators are not on this list.**



Demonstrators protest against the legislation to give Obama fast-track authority to advance trade deals, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership, on Thursday. (photo: Saul Loeb/AFP/Getty Images)

Oldest old less likely to be aggressively examined or treated after surgery

This is despite higher rates of multiple underlying conditions on admission



Patients aged 80 and above are significantly less likely to be carefully examined or aggressively treated after surgery than their younger counterparts, reveals a national audit of hospital deaths in Australia, published in the online journal *BMJ Open*.

This is despite the fact that the oldest old have higher rates of trauma and multiple underlying conditions on admission, say the Australian researchers.

Care in the oldest old may be less aggressive, or scaled down because the outcome is expected to be poor or treatment considered futile, they say. Perceived future quality of life issues may also be a factor.

The researchers assessed data from a national audit of deaths after surgical procedures in every specialty carried out between 2009 and 2012 in 111 public and 61 private hospitals across Australia. This included one in five private hospitals and virtually all

public teaching hospitals (99%).

In all, nearly 20,000 surgical patients died in hospital. Around half of these deaths were excluded because of data issues or because they occurred in people classified as brain deaths, or in those younger than 17 or in those who had had no surgery.

Some 11,201 were included in the final analysis. This group was divided into three age bands: 17-64; 65-79; and those aged 80 and above.

The researchers looked at the relationship between age, preoperative factors, such as multiple underlying conditions or trauma, and eight indicators of postoperative care.

These indicators were: fluid balance problems; return to theatre; unplanned intensive care unit admission; treatment in an intensive care unit; clinical issues; postoperative complications; the presence of infection at death; and whether, with hindsight, the surgeon would have managed the patient differently.

The average age of those who died soon after a surgical procedure was 78, and just under 44% (4892) were aged 80 and above.

Of those who died in hospital, most had been admitted as emergencies (83.4%). Nearly half (45%) had an incapacitating and life threatening disease on admission.

The oldest old had higher rates of admission as a result of trauma or other emergency than either of the two other age groups. But they were treated differently, receiving lower levels of aggressive and expensive treatment.

They had around half the rate of unplanned returns to theatre (11.2%) of those aged 65-79 (20.2%). They were also less likely to have unplanned admissions to intensive care (16.3% vs 24%) and less likely to be treated in intensive care (59.7% vs 76.7%).

On average, the most elderly spent fewer days in the hospital than those aged between 65 and 79 (9 vs 11 days) but more than the youngest (8 days). And they were less likely to have postoperative complications diagnosed and reported than 65-79 year olds.

Those aged between 65 and 79 also had a higher prevalence of cancer, which may have explained their higher rates of admission to intensive care, a move "that is often rationalized due to high operational costs whatever the age group," they write.

Surgical care for older patients tends to be complex, because of functional, physiological, psychological, and social factors, which are likely to influence decisions about their hospital care, say the researchers.

None the less, they point out that the oldest old had the lowest rate of diagnosed postoperative complications of all the age groups, despite virtually all of them having multiple underlying conditions, which are usually associated with a higher risk of problems arising after surgery.

"Our data suggest that there may be a culture of less intensive investigation, monitoring and possible failure to intervene in the elderly group," they say, adding that the costs of surgery may rise more slowly than expected if older people continue to be given less aggressive postoperative care.

Social Security begins 80th anniversary countdown on new website

Social Security was signed August 14, 1935



Social Security is about to celebrate its 80th birthday and has announced a new website featuring many activities leading up to the main event on August 14. The bill was signed in 1935.

"Social Security offers hope and protection for millions of people and some of the most vulnerable members of the American public," Acting Commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin said.

"This was President Franklin Roosevelt's vision in 1935, and the vision has never been clearer, nor has the work of our agency ever been more important than it is today."

The press release says, "Anticipation fills the air as Social Security gets closer to the agency's historic 80th anniversary." It also said this will be an "event-filled celebration."

Social Security launched the commemorative 80th anniversary website, where the public can learn more about the agency's legacy and the importance of the Social Security program.

The website, www.socialsecurity.gov/80thanniversary can be used by the public to submit stories that show how Social Security has benefited them or their families.

Social Security announced its employees around the country are expressing their enthusiasm and support through the agency's "Why I Serve" campaign, which highlights employees telling their own stories illustrating why they enjoy giving back through public service.

The agency also has planned several additional events, such as celebrating "America's Favorites: Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie & SSA" Night that will include a ball game between the Baltimore Orioles and the Oakland A's and at other games around the country. More events will be announced on the [80th Anniversary website](#).

"As I reflect on our agency's rich history, I am deeply honored to be a part of such a great organization with employees who truly embody the spirit of passionate public service," Acting Commissioner Colvin said.

"There is nothing more rewarding than making a difference in the lives of others, and with our collective commitment, there is no limit to what we can achieve. **Happy 80th Anniversary, Social Security!**"

Moderate drinking linked to heart damage in the elderly

Elderly men who consume at least two alcoholic beverages daily may be damaging their heart, according to a new study, with elderly women at risk of heart damage with just one drink a day.

Published in *Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging* - a journal of the American Heart Association - the study also reveals that severity of heart damage increases alongside a rise in alcohol intake.



The research team, including senior author Dr. Scott Solomon, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and director of noninvasive [cardiology](#) at Brigham and Women's Hospital - both in Boston, MA - says their findings "reinforce" guidelines recommending that when people drink, they should do so in moderation... [Read More](#)

The New England ARA state affiliates are actively pursuing these Petitions.

Petition Subject: Observation Status: "Current Hospital Issues in the Medicare Program"

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SIGN THE PETITION!!!!**

Petition Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 37 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 to get power doors installed in Post Offices and other federal buildings.

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Petition Subject: Elimination of the Unfair GPO and WEP Provisions of the Social Security Act to make sure the Congress of the United States enacts legislation, HR 3118 & S 896

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