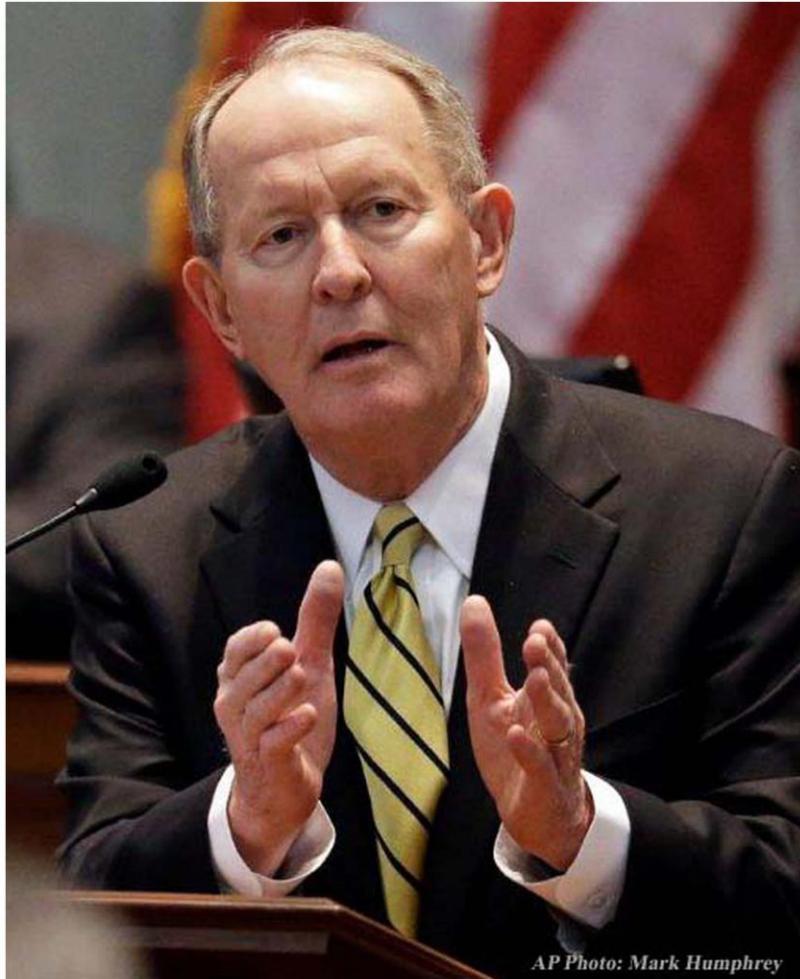


# U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander Accomplishments 2013

During 2013, no senator was responsible for more “laws actually passed”\* than Lamar Alexander.



He was the principal sponsor of two bills that became law, was crucial to the passage of six more bills that became law, and cosponsored three additional pieces of legislation that became law.

These included making loans for 11 million students cheaper, simpler, and more certain; dealing with the tragic meningitis outbreak by strengthening laws on drug compounding and drug safety; expanding research to help prevent premature births; and preserving Tennesseans' freedom to fish below dams on the Cumberland River.

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# Press Highlights

## The Jackson Sun

“It would be nice to see legislation vital to our nation written and passed with the speed and fervor of the Freedom to Fish Act. ... The act is in response to a heavy-handed decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restrict fishing in prime locations along the river with expensive permanent barriers. Led by Sen. Lamar Alexander, Tennessee and Kentucky members of Congress quickly drafted and passed legislation stopping the Corps’ move. President Barack Obama signed the measure into law on Monday.”

## DaleHollowHORIZON

“It’s not often news from Washington hits home in a small town like it has here lately, but U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander has made sure he’s kept his finger on issues facing the local community and his due diligence has paid off.”

## National Journal

“Led by ranking member Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., Senate Republicans have drafted their own alternative that would free the states from many of the onerous benchmarks in No Child Left Behind. Alexander proudly notes that his bill is about one-fifth the size of [the Democratic] bill.”



“Alexander has long championed and defended right-to-work laws...”

## Nooga.com

“The amendments being put forward by Alexander reflect many issues he has been vocal on in recent years...”

Alexander has another education-related amendment ...designed to encourage states and schools to reward teachers and principals based upon their performance.

The senator also has an amendment that would eliminate a 2.3 percent federal excise tax on medical device manufacturers, which has become mandated through the Affordable Care Act. Alexander suggests replacing the loss in revenues from repealing the tax by killing a \$12 billion federal subsidy to the wind energy industry—a subsidy he has called to end numerous times in the past.

Alexander has also introduced an amendment to void any decision and prevent any funding for items that were passed by the National Labor Relations Board during a period of time when recess appointees to the board, tapped by President Barack Obama last year, were serving.”

## THE TENNESSEAN

“President Barack Obama signed into law on Wednesday legislation passed by Congress to define who has oversight for regulating compounding pharmacies in the wake of a fungal meningitis outbreak caused by tainted drugs.

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander... was one of the main authors of the Drug Quality and Security Act, the result of an agreement he reached with House and Senate health committee leaders to make injections of compounded sterile drugs safer.”



“... U.S. senators like Tennessee’s Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander, two Republicans who have had a significant presence on many issues facing the nation and the United States’ role in the world, while advocating for federal legislation beneficial to Tennesseans.”



“Nobody wants to say no to Lamar Alexander.” – U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.)

# **Action During the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress**

## **Leading Senate Committee that Oversees Health, Education, Labor and Pension policies**

Alexander was elected unanimously by Senate Republicans to serve during the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress as the highest-ranking Republican, known as the Ranking Member, on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, also called the HELP committee. The HELP committee handles an unusually high volume of legislation, and, in terms of jurisdiction over the nation's economy, is among the largest Senate committees.

The HELP committee oversees the health care industry – an industry for which Tennessee has proven a hub of entrepreneurial activity – and has responsibility for oversight of the Obama administration's failed implementation of Obamacare. Alexander opposed Obamacare, calling it “an historic mistake.”

The committee also oversees education, an important topic during this Congress when the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind law and the Higher Education Act must be addressed. Alexander uses his position to reverse the trend towards a national school board by opposing efforts to give Washington more authority over our nation's public schools, and is working to deregulate higher education by identifying for elimination outdated, unnecessary, and duplicative regulations that have built up over the past four decades. In the labor area, Alexander uses his position to continue his long-standing efforts as a champion and defender of state right-to-work laws, as well as to oppose additional efforts by the Obama administration to add burdensome regulations on employers that have thrown a big, wet blanket over the economy.

## **Fighting Against Obamacare**

Alexander steered the effort to repeal and replace the president's health care law, calling on Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), to resign over her mismanagement of the implementation of the law.

Alexander laid out principles of step-by-step health care reform that Republicans would pursue instead of the “historic mistake” that is the president's health care law; led the way in investigating the mismanagement of implementing the law; and called out the Obama administration for its blatant disregard for the

law's requirements, as the Obama administration allowed HHS and the Internal Revenue Service to decide which parts of the law to enforce and which to waive.

### **Standing Up for Tennessee's Meningitis Victims**

After helping lead the first Senate hearing on the meningitis outbreak in 2012, Alexander continued to investigate and worked on legislation to help prevent another nightmare like the meningitis outbreak that continues to have an effect on Tennesseans today. After that first hearing, he worked with other members of the HELP committee to draft legislation that was introduced in early April.

Alexander led another hearing on that proposal in mid-April, and as a result, the Pharmaceutical Quality, Security, and Accountability Act (S.959) passed out of the HELP Committee on May 22. After pushing for a Senate vote all summer, he negotiated with his HELP committee colleagues and members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to come up with a compromise –H.R.3204, the Drug Quality and Security Act—that contained compounding reforms. H.R. 3204 passed both the House and the Senate and was signed into law on November 27, 2013.

### **Opposing a National School Board**

Alexander introduced the “Every Child Ready for College or a Career Act,” the Republican alternative to Senate Democrats’ efforts to fix No Child Left Behind.

Opposing what he called a de facto national school board, Alexander led Republican efforts to present a different point of view that trusts parents, teachers, principals, state and local leaders, and our nation’s governors – instead of Washington – to determine how best to reform our nation’s schools and improve the quality and skills of our teachers.

### **Challenging a Radical Labor Agenda**

Alexander challenged the Obama administration’s unconstitutional recess appointments to the National Labor Relations Board, and demonstrated why the proposed increase to the minimum wage would actually harm the job prospects of those making minimum wage or seeking employment.

## **Leading the Fight Against Extension of Federal Wind Subsidies**

Alexander served as the Senate leader in the fight to end the wind production tax credit (wind PTC), a major federal subsidy that cost Tennesseans \$52 million in 2012, arguing in speeches from the Senate floor, op-eds in major national publications, and by leading a bipartisan letter explaining that Washington cannot afford to pay billions of taxpayer dollars in subsidies that deliver expensive, unreliable electricity and the tax credit should be allowed to expire.

For the next 10 years, extending the tax credit one year at a time could cost \$60 billion or more, based on the most recent data from the Joint Committee on Taxation, which was about enough to pay for the recent budget agreement that spent \$63 billion to replace the sequester. Taxpayers will have provided an estimated \$22 billion to wind producers between 1992 and 2022 as a result of the wind production tax credit. That amount doesn't include the \$12.9 billion wind developers received from President Obama's failed federal stimulus bill.

## **Encouraging Use of Nuclear Power and Solving the Nuclear Waste Problem**

Alexander helped draft legislation to begin consolidating spent nuclear fuel and finding a permanent repository for the nation's nuclear waste. This is important because nuclear power provides 60 percent of our reliable, air-pollution-free electricity.

Alexander supports opening Yucca Mountain in Nevada, which federal law designates as the only potential site as a repository for used nuclear fuel, but controversy over the project has stalled progress on licensing activities, leaving fuel rods to be stored on-site at dozens of commercial nuclear facilities around the country, including areas that are at risk of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. Millions of gallons of high-level radioactive waste from the nation's nuclear weapons programs are also being stored at Department of Energy sites around the country.

After 25 years of stalemate over Yucca Mountain, Alexander's legislation would put the country back on the road to finding additional safe places to dispose of used nuclear fuel by making local, state and federal governments equal partners in the process of finding temporary and permanent storage for nuclear waste.

# Legislation

During 2013, no senator was more responsible for “laws actually passed” (Politico, 1/9/14) than Sen. Lamar Alexander.

Alexander was the principal author of two pieces of legislation that were signed into law:

- **Freedom to Fish Act (P.L. 113-13)** – A law stopping the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from restricting access to fishing below dams on the Cumberland River.
- **PREEMIE Reauthorization Act (P.L. 113-55)** – A law to expand research, education and intervention activities related to preterm birth, which is the number one cause of infant death in America. With the rate of premature births above 12 percent in Tennessee, this law ensures continued federal support for the scientists and doctors who are looking into the causes of premature births and how we can prevent them. This law also included provisions to ensure the National Institutes of Health is able to continue caring for the chimpanzees it owns and a provision to create a National Pediatric Research Network to encourage collaboration among researchers and optimize pediatric research.

Was crucial to the passage of six pieces of legislation that become law:

- **Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-28)** – A law to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to lower interest rates on all new federal student loans, making those loans simpler, cheaper and more certain by permanently tying the rate to the market.
- **Drug Quality and Security Act (P.L. 113-54)** – A law to clarify the regulation of compounded drugs, like those that are tied to the tragic meningitis outbreak, by distinguishing compounders engaged in traditional pharmacy practice from those making large volumes of compounded drugs without individual prescriptions. Compounders who wish to practice outside the scope of traditional pharmacy practice now voluntarily can register with the Food and Drug Administration as “outsourcing facilities,” subject to FDA oversight in much the same way as traditional manufacturers. On a separate matter, the law also created a pathway to track prescription drugs at

the bottle level from the manufacturer to the pharmacy, helping to ensure consumers get drugs that are not counterfeit, diverted, or stolen.

- **Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-5)** – A law to strengthen critical medical and public health preparedness, response programs and policies to improve our nation’s resilience to medical and public health threats including avian flu, anthrax, or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).
- **Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-14)** – A law to direct the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to approve new animal drugs faster, reducing costs for farmers.
- **School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act (P.L. 113-48)** – A law to encourage states to ensure public schools maintain a supply of epinephrine injectors, and to allow trained school personnel to administer an epinephrine injection if a student is experiencing an anaphylactic reaction.
- **HIV Organ Policy Equity Act (P.L. 113-51)** – A law to strike the ban on acquiring organs from HIV-positive, in order to allow for research on such transplants to HIV-positive recipients.

Cosponsored 3 pieces of legislation that also became law:

- **No Budget, No Pay Act (P.L. 113-3)** – A bill to require the House and the Senate to pass a budget and appropriations bills by Oct. 1 or cut the pay for members of Congress for every day that a budget has not been passed.
- **Congressional Gold Medal for victims of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing in September 1963 (P.L. 113-11).**
- **Congressional Gold Medal to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service in World War II (P.L. 113-16).**

Was the principal sponsor (or author) of 18 other pieces of legislation, including:

- **IRS Abuse Protection Act (S. 1489)** – A bill to require the U.S. Treasury secretary to notify a taxpayer each time his or her tax information is accessed.

- **Premium Disclosure Act (S. 1849)** – A bill to require the Obama administration to disclose premium increase and cost-sharing information to Americans prior to Nov. 15, 2014, so there is a reasonable amount of time to make decisions about their health care for 2015.
- **Commercial Flight Courtesy Act (S. 1811)** – A bill to prohibit the use of wireless devices for phone calls on commercial flights.
- **Tennessee Wilderness Act (S. 1294)** – A bill designating six different areas totaling 19,556 acres as wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest, preserving Tennessee’s beautiful landscape and natural heritage for generations to come.
- **Protecting States, Opening National Parks Act (S. 1572)** – A bill requiring the U.S. Treasury secretary to reimburse states that spent state funds to open up national parks during the government shutdown.
- **Exascale Computing (S. 733)** – A bill to develop high-speed computing machines through private-public partnerships that will meet the needs of our national security and increase U.S. competitiveness.
- **Preventing Greater Uncertainty in Labor-Management Relations Act (S. 850)** – A bill responding to the president’s unconstitutional recess appointments that would prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from taking any action that requires a quorum until the board members constituting the quorum have been confirmed by the Senate or the Supreme Court rules that the appointments were valid.
- **Competitive Medicare Acquisition in Tennessee (S. 1265)** – A bill to ensure Medicare beneficiaries in Tennessee continue to have access to medical equipment by requiring the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to conduct a rebid for contracts to supply medical equipment to Tennessee’s Medicare beneficiaries through a new competitive bidding system that launched July 1.
- **Appalachian Regional Commission (S. 1646)** – A bill to add Perry, Wayne and Lewis counties in Tennessee to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

- **Self-Insurance Protection Act (S 1735)** – A bill to protect the ability of employers to provide health insurance to employees through self-insured plans.
- **Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker’s Crossroads Battlefield Designation Act (S. 1785)** – A bill to expand the existing boundary of Shiloh National Military Park to include Fallen Timbers Battlefield, Russell House Battlefield and Davis Bridge Battlefield.
- **Quadrennial Energy Review Act of 2013 (S. 552)** – A bill to direct the president to establish an energy coordination council to provide an integrated view of national energy objectives and federal energy policy, including alignment of research programs and partnerships.
- **Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2013 (S. 1562)** – A bill to support state programs that provide seniors home delivered meals, home care, elder abuse response and prevention, and information about aging at home.

Cosponsored more than 65 other pieces of significant legislation, including:

- **Fiscal Sustainability Act (S .11)** – A bill to reform Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security so they will be there for future beneficiaries and slow the growth of entitlement spending by nearly \$1 trillion over the next 10 years.
- **Financial Takeover Repeal Act (S. 20)** – A bill to repeal the Dodd-Frank financial reform legislation.
- **American Liberty Restoration Act (S. 40)** – A bill to repeal Obamacare’s individual mandate, which requires Americans to purchase health insurance or pay a penalty at tax time.
- **Obamacare Repeal Act (S. 177)** – A bill to repeal Obamacare in its entirety.
- **Keystone Pipeline (S. 582)** – A bill to authorize the construction and operation of the TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline.

- **Regulatory Responsibility for Our Economy Act (S. 191)** – A bill to require federal agencies to only propose regulations if the benefits justify costs and with input from those affected.
- **Medical Device and Innovation Protection Act (S. 232)** – A bill to repeal the job-killing excise tax on medical devices imposed by Obamacare. A Sept. 2011 study indicated that the law’s medical device tax could cost the US 43,000 jobs (1,000 in Tenn.).
- **Marketplace Fairness Act (S. 743)** – A bill to give states the right to enforce their own sales tax laws on online and remote sales.
- **Manhattan Project National Historical Act (S. 507)** – A bill to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Los Alamos, N.M.; and Hanford, Wash.
- **Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act (S. 554)** – A bill to require: (1) biennial budget resolutions, (2) biennial appropriations Acts, and (3) biennial government strategic and performance plans, so that Congress can spend a year between budgets cleaning out waste, fraud and abuse.
- **Jobs and Premium Protection Act (S. 603)** – A bill to repeal Obamacare’s employer mandate, which requires that all employers with 50 or more full-time-equivalent employees provide government-approved insurance or pay a tax penalty.
- **Diagnostic Imaging Services Access Protection Act (S. 623)** – A bill to ensure appropriate Medicare reimbursement for advanced diagnostic imaging scans performed on the same patient, in the same session.
- **Mental Health Awareness and Improvement Act (S. 689)** – A bill to increase the awareness and improve prevention and early identification of mental health conditions.
- **Small Brewer Reinvestment and Expanding Workforce Act (S. 917)** – A bill to reduce the rate of the excise tax on beer producers who produce less than 6 million barrels of beer a year.
- **Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (S. 1086)** – A bill to give states more flexibility in developing child care programs and policies that

best suit the needs of children and parents in their state, promote parental choice to empower working parents, and assist states in providing and improving high-quality child care services to parents.

- **Representation Fairness Restoration Act (S. 1166)** – A bill to prohibit the gerrymandering of organized labor bargaining units into smaller “micro-unions” that represent only small segments of the employees in a workplace, rather than including all appropriate and similarly situated employees.
- **Death Tax Repeal Act (S. 1183)** – A bill to repeal the federal estate tax permanently and generation-skipping taxes.
- **Nuclear Waste Administration Act (S. 1240)** – A bill to establish consent-based consolidated storage system for the national nuclear waste.
- **Defund Obamacare Act (S. 1292)** – A bill to effectively repeal Obamacare by not funding any of its programs.
- **Songwriters Tax Simplification Reauthorization Act (S. 1326)** – A bill to amend the tax code to make permanent the rule providing five-year amortization or expenses incurred in creating or acquiring music or music copyrights.
- **Toxic Substances and Worker Health Advisory Board Act (S. 1423)** – A bill to establish an advisory board to review information used to determine claims for sick nuclear workers under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act.
- **Union Bailout Prevention Act (S. 1487)** – A bill to prevent union health care plans, also known as Taft-Hartley plans, from receiving a special carve-out from the Obamacare reinsurance tax.
- **Delay individual mandate, employer health insurance mandate (S. 1488)** – A bill to delay Obamacare’s individual and employer mandates for one year.
- **Rewarding Achievement and Incentivizing Successful Employees (RAISE) Act (S.1542)** – A bill to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees, even if there is a union collective bargaining agreement in place prohibiting bonus or incentive payments.

- **Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act (S. 1557)** – A bill to continue programs that provide pediatric residents (doctors in training) with support similar to that which other teaching hospitals receive through Medicare.
- **CHIMP Act Amendments (S. 1561)** – A bill to allow the National Institutes of Health to continue to pay for the care and maintenance of chimpanzees it owns that are housed in sanctuaries.
- **If you Like Your Health Plan You Can Keep It Act (S. 1617)** – A bill to put the president’s promise into law and allow Americans to remain on the health care plans that have been in effect through the end of 2013 if the plan sponsor chose to keep offering that coverage in 2014.
- **Employee Rights Act (S.1712)** – A bill to provide protections to employees, such as: requiring a secret ballot for union elections; requiring recertification votes when employee turnover in a bargaining unit exceeds 50 percent; prohibiting “ambush” elections; requiring secret ballot votes before a union decides to strike; criminalizing union threats; and preventing use of union dues for political purposes without employee consent.
- **National Energy Tax Repeal Act (S.1324)** – A bill to prohibit any federal agency from issuing regulations relating to power sector carbon pollution standards, unless that regulation is explicitly authorized by an act of Congress.
- **Constitutional amendment for a balanced budget (S.J. Res 7)** – Requires the president to submit a balanced budget each year, and limits spending to the amount collected in revenues. Also requires 67 votes to raise taxes and 60 votes to raise the debt limit.
- **Returned Exclusively For Unpaid National Debt (REFUND) Act (S. 692)** – Rescinds Federal funds identified by States as unwanted and use the funds to reduce the Federal debt.

For a complete list of legislation sponsored and cosponsored by Senator Alexander, please visit: <http://thomas.loc.gov>

# HELP Committee Oversight

This year, Senator Alexander, as Ranking Member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, led aggressive oversight activities of the Obama administration:

- **Led Effort to Urge Unconstitutionally Appointed National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Members to Withdraw**
  - On Jan. 31, Alexander and 39 other Republican senators sent a letter to the two invalidly appointed NLRB members telling them they should leave immediately.
  - The president withdrew their nominations on July 16.
- **Led Effort to Force the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to Conduct Proper Assessment of Silica Rule**
  - On Nov. 21, Alexander and 15 other Republican senators sent a letter to OSHA demanding the agency extend the notice and comment period by 90 days and conduct the legally required small business review panel.
  - OSHA has not granted the request, but the Small Business Administration is likely to host various roundtable meetings on the rule in 2014.

Was principal co-author of three oversight reports:

- **The Price of Obamacare's Broken Promises** – A report outlining estimated premium increases for all 50 states due to the rigid mandates and price controls imposed by the president's health care law.
- **Reboot: Re-Examining the Strategies Needed to Successfully Implement Health IT** – A report raising concerns about the cost of health information technology regulations on providers, and whether these regulations are effectively achieving the program's goal of improved patient care.
- **The Case for Clarifying FDA Authority: Large-Scale Drug Compounding and the Ongoing Risk to Public Health** – A report

summarizing the findings from more than 30,000 pages of documents reviewed in connection with the 2012 meningitis outbreak. The report concluded that large-scale drug compounding facilities pose a risk to public safety from a lack of adequate oversight, and that FDA and state regulators need clearer authority over which entities they regulate.

Led key investigations into implementation and mismanagement of Obamacare:

- **Problems with HealthCare.Gov** – Two letters to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius seeking documents and information regarding what caused the federal health insurance exchange to fail so miserably, who was responsible, and who knew about the problems before the botched launch.
- **Inappropriate Obamacare Fundraising** – Two letters to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius asking for information and documents related to the secretary’s fundraising for a private entity run by a former Obama administration official. Two additional letters sent to the Office of the Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) requesting an investigation of the fundraising. GAO accepted the request and is undergoing its investigation.
- **Inappropriate Obamacare Promotion** – Letter to the White House seeking documents and information about a document obtained by the committee that revealed at least 21 agencies were directed by the White House to promote Obamacare. Also sent letters to the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Education regarding the use of non-health-care-related agency funds to promote enrollments in Obamacare.
- **Lack of Obamacare Transparency** – Letter to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius requesting disclosure of how HHS grant funds are used to establish state exchanges.
- **Rising Premiums** – Letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius seeking documents and information about how premium rates were established in the federal exchanges.
- **Special Obamacare Carveouts for Unions** - Two letters, each signed by 21 senators, to the White House Office of Management and Budget demanding the Obama administration not make any special exemptions or carveouts from Obamacare for union health plans.

Was the lead author of 13 additional oversight letters:

- **Health IT** – Two letters to HHS Secretary Sebelius regarding concerns about burdensome health information technology regulations in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act program, the costs to providers, and whether the program can meet its goals. Requested an extension to the program to give providers time to catch up, which was partially granted by the administration.
- **Burdensome Regulations** – Letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius regarding a proposed regulation that could potentially put an innovative, non-invasive, cost-saving medical device out of business. HHS revised its rules as requested.
- **Job Corps** – Letter to Department of Labor regarding the department’s decision to suspend all new student enrollments to Job Corps centers, including 2 centers in Tennessee.
- **Department of Labor Nominee** – Letters to the Department of Justice, Department of Justice Inspector General, Department of Labor Inspector General and Department of Housing and Urban Development seeking information relevant to the nomination of Thomas Perez to be secretary of Labor.
- **Expansive Labor Regulations** – Letter to Department of Labor Secretary Perez requesting information and documents related to the process in which the Wage and Hour Division issued guidance that expanded the application of the Davis Bacon Act to surveyors.
- **Sequestration** – Letters to Department of Labor, Department of Education, and Department of Health and Human Services seeking information on the administration’s sequestration plans.
- **Pension Advances** – Letter to National Association of Attorneys General seeking information regarding potentially abusive loans designed to be an advance on pension benefits.

Co-signed other significant letters, including:

- **Costs of HealthCare.Gov** – Letter to Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Tavenner seeking up-to-date contracts for the work to build and fix healthcare.gov and asking for detailed information about the costs of the federal exchanges.
- **Obamacare Employer Regulations** – Letter to Government Accountability Office requesting an analysis of whether the Treasury Department’s decision to delay enforcement of certain Obamacare employer mandates was legal. GAO has accepted the request and is performing its analysis.
- **Obamacare Taxes** – Letter to Treasury Department requesting an analysis of the economic impact of an Obamacare tax that will impose \$100 million in new taxes on health insurance companies – costs that will ultimately be passed on to consumers in the form of higher premiums.
- **Obamacare Loans** – Letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius questioning whether \$2 billion in loans to nonprofit, cooperative health insurance plans will be recovered given Healthcare.gov’s dramatic failures. In addition, a Government Accountability Office report was requested examining the Consumer Oriented and Operated Plan (CO-OP) loans. GAO accepted the request and is undergoing the investigation.
- **Food and Drug Administration** – Letters to Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Hamburg seeking information about how the agency is attempting to prevent drug shortages and how the agency balances risk-benefit considerations in its review of medical devices.

Sent letters standing up for Tennessee’s Durable Medical Goods providers:

- **Questioning administration’s ignoring of Tennessee law** – Sent a letter to the administration requesting details on its policy of awarding Medicare contracts for durable medical equipment to businesses not licensed in Tennessee, a violation of the administration’s bid policy and a violation of Tennessee state law.
- **Demanding access to medical goods for Tennessee residents** – Sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services calling for the administration to provide a plan of action “to ensure that all Medicare

beneficiaries in Tennessee will have robust options to receive [Durable Medical Equipment] when they need it and that all companies supplying Medicare beneficiaries in Tennessee will be properly licensed to operate in the state.”

# Energy & Water Appropriations Oversight

Was principal co-signer of two oversight letters to the administration:

- **Problems with the future of the American Centrifuge Project** – Sent a letter to the secretary of the Department of Energy requesting information on the department’s plans to proceed with the project, which is expected to provide a sufficient supply of enriched uranium for national security needs, and updated costs for the project to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.
- **Demanding program implementation consistent with congressional intent** - Sent a letter to the secretary of the Department of Energy calling for immediate action to ensure the Small Modular Reactor Licensing Technical Support program is administered in accordance with the direction Congress provided in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

# Awards & Recognition

For defending the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

- **Restoring the Balance Award** from the National Conference of State Legislatures, which was awarded for the first time in 10 years
- **Senator Douglas Henry 2013 Guardian of Federalism Award** from The Council of State Governments to expand states' rights
- **The Hero of Main Street Award** from the National Retail Federation

For defending free enterprise:

- **Spirit of Enterprise Award** from the U .S. Chamber of Commerce
- **Spirit of Enterprise Award** from the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry

In addition Alexander received:

- **Friend and Champion Award** from the Immune Deficiency Foundation
- **The President's Award** from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- **The Truck Safety Leadership Award** from the Truck Safety Coalition
- **The Sheldon Coleman Great Outdoors Award** from the American Recreation Coalition

# Major Policy Addresses

- **[“Four Grand Principles for Our Energy Future”](#)** – **May 29 speech at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn.** – “Today, I want to suggest four grand principles to help us chart a competitive energy future for the next five years, and end an obsession with taxpayer subsidies and strategies for expensive energy and instead focus on doubling research and allowing marketplace solutions to create an abundance of clean, cheap, reliable energy.”
- **[“Farmers Are the Original Conservatives”](#)** – **Dec. 9 speech before the Tennessee Farm Bureau in Franklin, Tenn.** – “In Tennessee, farmers work on more than 77,000 farms and take care of approximately 10.8 million acres of land. That means they’re doing a full day’s work before many people even start the workday, and shows why agriculture is one of Tennessee’s most important industries. It is my hope that legislation that improves certainty for farmers and allows them to increase production will become law, and that we can continue to push back against burdensome regulations.”

## Op-eds

- **[“Bill Will Ensure Safety of Compounded Drugs”](#)** – **Op-Ed in the *Tennessean*** – “The Senate this week will vote to pass and send to the president’s desk a bill to help prevent future tragedies like the meningitis outbreak that has caused 16 deaths and so much pain in Tennessee. This bill is the result of an agreement I helped the Senate and House reach to clarify who is in charge – who is on the flagpole – for ensuring the safety of sterile compounded drugs like the steroid injections that last year were meant to ease pain but that instead became a nightmare for so many.”
- **[“Army Corps Plans Threaten Cumberland River Dam Tailwaters”](#)** – **Op-Ed in the *Tennessean* with Ed Carter, executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency** – “When you consider these three important principles: state and local control; using our taxpayers’ money wisely; and supporting the Tennessee economy, it’s clear the Corps needs to keep fishing for alternatives to its proposed policy. In fact, it all reinforces a point that Tennesseans already understand every time they pick up a rod and reel: The tailwaters are a valuable resource, and we should fight to keep them that way.”
- **[“Act Protects Groups from IRS Abuses”](#)** – **Op-Ed in the *Tennessean*, *Murfreesboro Daily News Journal*, and *Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle*, with Rep. Stephen Fincher** – “The Internal Revenue Service violated the First Amendment rights of the American people – and their trust – when it targeted conservative political groups in Tennessee and around the country for additional scrutiny during the 2012 election ... [How] can we make sure this never happens again? How do we make sure you are not afraid to be politically active? So many people have told us they are afraid to be politically active for fear of repercussions. One way is to enable you to do as President Ronald Reagan often advised: ‘Trust, but verify.’ That’s why we’ve introduced the ‘IRS Abuse Protection Act,’ which would require the federal government to inform taxpayers when the Internal Revenue Service accesses their information. Under our legislation, the [Treasury secretary] would have to notify, in writing, taxpayers each time the IRS accesses their tax accounts, tax returns or other tax return information.”
- **[“Lamar Alexander: I Stay True to My Conservative Ideals”](#)** – **Op-Ed in the *Tennessean*** – “Last week, some well-meaning Tennesseans wrote a

letter suggesting that I ‘retire with dignity’ from the United States Senate because of a record of ‘compromise and bipartisanship, two traits for which you have become famous.’ Ever since walking 1,000 miles across our state, I’ve listened carefully to the 6 million Tennesseans I’m elected to represent. So the letter deserves respect and this response: I appreciate the suggestion, but if the people of Tennessee will allow it, I’d rather continue to serve — hopefully, with dignity. Here’s why: Our country’s on the wrong track. Our state’s on the right track. So the logical way to get our country on the right track is to transport some of Tennessee’s common sense to Washington, D.C. One good way to do that is to send to Washington a conservative, problem-solving former Tennessee governor with a record of getting results: Auto jobs. Better schools. Better roads. Balanced budgets. Low taxes. Low debt. Washington needs more, not fewer, conservatives who know how to govern. Governing means listening, standing up for what you believe in and solving problems to get a result. I did that as governor. I’m doing that as senator. I’m proud of that record.”

- **[“Without the Filibuster, a Tyranny of the Majority”](#)** – **Op-Ed in the *Washington Post*** – “[The] stunning rules change by Senate Democrats can best be described as Obamacare II: another exercise of partisan political power to permit the majority to do whatever it wants. This time, the goal was advancing its agenda unchecked through the courts and executive agencies ... This was the most dangerous restructuring of Senate rules since Thomas Jefferson wrote them. It creates a perpetual opportunity for ‘tyranny of the majority,’ which Alexis de Tocqueville called one of the greatest threats to American democracy.”
- **[“Republicans Want to Free America from Federal Education Mandates”](#)** – **Op-Ed at *National Review*’s “The Corner” blog** – “Over the last decade, the U.S. Department of Education has become so congested with federal mandates that it has become, in effect, a national school board. If you remember the childhood game ‘Mother, May I?,’ then you’ll have a pretty good sense of how the process works – states must come to Washington to get approval for their plans, determining the education of 50 million students in 100,000 public schools.”
- **[“Obama NLRB Appointees Should Resign Immediately”](#)** – **Op-Ed at *National Review Online*’s “The Corner”** – “A federal court of appeals panel ... ruled that President Obama violated the Constitution when he used his recess power to appoint three individuals to the National Labor Relations

Board (NLRB) in January 2012 .... As ranking member of the Senate committee with jurisdiction over the NLRB, I am calling on Sharon Block and Richard F. Griffin Jr. to resign immediately ... In slipping through these so-called ‘recess’ appointments, the president’s administration attempted to skirt a constitutionally required step: seeking ‘the advice and consent of the Senate’ ....”

- **“Lamar Alexander: Obama Appointments Unconstitutional”** – **Op-ed in *USA Today*** – “On January 4, 2012, President Obama made three so-called recess appointments to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) while the Senate was not in recess. These appointments were unprecedented—no other president has made recess appointments while the Senate was in session. A year later, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia unanimously held that the president's appointments violated the Constitution. The Senate decides when it is in session – not the president. Were it otherwise, there would be no point to the Senate's constitutional ‘advice and consent’ power at all, and the Senate could return from lunch one day to find there's a new Supreme Court justice.”
- **“Lamar Alexander: Kathleen Sebelius, Meet Oliver North”** – **Op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal*** – “Major news outlets in recent days have reported that [HHS] Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is raising money from the private sector—including from health-care executives—for use by a private entity that is helping to implement ObamaCare ... The *Washington Post* quoted an HHS spokesman last week saying, ‘We requested additional money [from Congress] . . . but we didn't receive any additional funding for the exchanges. So we had to come up with Plan B.’ My immediate thought was: Isn't ‘Plan B’ what got Oliver North in trouble during the 1980s? ... Is Ms. Sebelius raising funds for a private entity and then coordinating with that entity to do something Congress has refused to authorize, or for which it has refused to appropriate funds? And is she raising money from organizations she regulates, in violation of ethics laws? If the money being raised by Ms. Sebelius is being spent to do an end-run around Congress, then the Obama administration had better brush up on its Iran-Contra history.”
- **“School Choice: Part of the Solution to Our Broken Education System”** – **Op-Ed at the *Huffington Post*, with Senators Rand Paul, Mike Lee, Tim Scott, and Mitch McConnell** – “Every decision made by bureaucrats in Washington is a decision taken from the people who actually educate -- principals, teachers, and especially parents. And as usual, those most

vulnerable to the unintended consequences of bad education policy are those most vulnerable, period -- the poor, the disconnected, and most of all, their children. Where the current system hasn't worked, school choice has.”

- **“Playing Politics with Student Loans”** – **Op-Ed in the *New York Times*, with Senators Tom Coburn and Richard Burr** – “This summer, more than nine million undergraduates will take out an average of \$6,700 each in federal loans to pay for college next year. They will borrow, on average, \$24,803 to earn their degrees. While this continues to be one of the smartest investments they will ever make, Congress should take one step toward making it an even smarter one. We have introduced a proposal that would get rid of the confusing and arbitrary way interest rates are determined on federal student loans, and instead allow rates to be set by the market.”
- **“Lamar Alexander: Water Treatment Plan to Intercept Mercury, Make Creek Safer”** – **Op-Ed in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*** – “If the words ‘mercury in the water at Oak Ridge’ get your attention, as they do mine, let me give you the assessment I’ve gathered of the problem and what we can do about it. The bottom line for what you can do: Don’t eat the fish in East Fork Poplar Creek, and even better, stay out of that water. What the federal government can do about it in the short term is to construct a water-treatment plant to capture and clean the water where up to 80 percent of the contamination occurs. Long term, the U.S. Department of Energy must clean up the source of the mercury ...”
- **“Immigration Bill Would Add Jobs, Secure Border”** – **Op-Ed in the *Tennessean*, with Senator Bob Corker** – “No Republican should vote for legislation that perpetuates amnesty for more than 11 million people illegally in our country, leaves our southern border open for even more illegal immigration, and stifles economic growth. That is why we were two of the 68 senators who voted for the immigration bill that takes the most dramatic steps in history to secure our border, ends perpetual amnesty, and encourages job creation. Since there is so much emotion surrounding the immigration debate, we appreciate this opportunity to offer the reasoning behind our votes ...”

- **“Alexander: The Power Grab Behind the Crocodile Tears”** – **Op-Ed in the *Washington Times*** – “This week’s ‘nuclear option’ debate about whether U.S. senators should be permitted to filibuster presidential nominations was not about filibusters. It was instead about whether a majority of senators should be able to change the rules of the Senate anytime for any purpose ... In other words, this was a power grab. Despite Democrats’ crocodile tears, filibusters – the requirement of securing 60 senators’ votes to allow a vote on a nomination – have done little to frustrate presidential nominations.”
- **“Student Loan Bill Will Make Cost of Borrowing Easier and Cheaper”** – **Op-Ed in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*** – “A new law I worked to help enact lowers interest rates for every new federal student loan this year, making it easier for 11 million borrowers — including 200,000 Tennessee students — to pay for college ... In a refreshing development, Congress and President Barack Obama agreed on this good result. The president proposed the idea, the House of Representatives voted 392-31 for the law, and in the Senate, it gathered the support of 45 of 46 Republicans. Not only does this law make student loans cheaper, it also makes them simpler and more certain, because this solution is permanent and market-based.”
- **“Bill Will Clarify Oversight of Compounders”** – **Op-Ed in the *Tennessean*** – “Last year’s fungal meningitis outbreak was a nightmare for Tennesseans ... Last week, the Senate’s health committee completed work on legislation I sponsored to try to make sure this never happens again ... I believe most of the problem with the meningitis outbreak was a lack of clear accountability for regulating the large Massachusetts pharmacy that compounded (or mixed) the tainted drugs. There was confusion between the [FDA] and the Massachusetts pharmacy board over who was responsible for overseeing businesses that functioned in between a traditional corner drug store and a drug manufacturer. The primary goal of our legislation is to erase that confusion.”

- **“Community Newspapers Show the Importance of Telling a Good Story”** – **Op-Ed appeared in many local papers across Tennessee and the country** – “When I think about the good in our Tennessee communities – what makes them strong and special – hometown newspapers telling local stories certainly qualify ... There’s also plenty that local newspapers do to bring people together. From covering local community events to telling the stories of local residents, small, hometown newspapers tell people what they need to know to feel connected to one another. Sometimes these stories can even inspire. And despite how much media has changed in recent years, local community newspapers can also do quite a lot to connect people to the outside world. I know this to be true as I work on fixing the federal debt, taking more decisions out of Washington and back to Tennessee and pushing back against the regulations that are throwing a big, wet blanket over the economy.”
  - **“Fairness in Taxes a Decision for States to Make”** – **Op-Ed in the *Tennessean* with Sen. Bob Corker** – “This past week, the U.S. Senate debated the Marketplace Fairness Act, an 11-page bill about two words: states’ rights. The legislation — which would allow states to collect state sales taxes already owed on remote purchases from out-of-state businesses — is about letting states set their own tax policy without asking Washington’s permission. That’s the spirit of the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and the spirit of this country.”
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For more information about Senator Alexander, please visit his website:

<http://alexander.senate.gov>