



# Lamar Alexander

United States Senator • Tennessee

## U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander's Record of Achievement 2009

- Was principal sponsor (or lead Republican sponsor) of 3 legislative proposals that are now law:
  - **Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act** – to fund a number of conservation efforts across Tennessee, including increased funding for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and other national parks, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and several water and wastewater projects in Tennessee communities.
  - **Improving Service for Sick Nuclear Workers** – to expand authority of the Ombudsman under the EEOICPA so that sick nuclear workers can more easily navigate the difficult claims process.
  - **Green McAdoo National Historic Site Study Act** – to require a study on the feasibility of designating the first desegregated public high school in the South – the Green McAdoo School of Clinton, Tennessee – as a unit of the National Park System. Passed as part of a package of public lands bills approved by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.
  
- Was principal sponsor (or lead Republican sponsor) of 4 pieces of legislation that passed the Senate:
  - **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Smokies** – resolution recognizing and commending the people of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the park.

- **Charter Schools** – resolution supporting the goals of National Charter Schools Week from May 3 through May 9, 2009 and congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education.
  - **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Archives** – a resolution congratulating the men and women of the National Archives and Records Administration on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.
  - **Shaken Baby Awareness Week** – resolution designating the third week of April 2009 as “National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.”
- Was principal sponsor (or lead Republican sponsor) of the following legislation that has passed out of committee:
- **National Historical Publications and Records Commission Reauthorization Act** – to help fund state and local efforts to improve preservation of important historical documents through the grant-making body of the National Archives.
  - **FDA Food Safety Modernization Act** – to give the FDA new authorities, tools and resources to comprehensively reform the agency’s food safety efforts.
  - **Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act** – to help schools protect the more than 2.2 million children nationwide, including 41,000 Tennesseans, who suffer from life-threatening food allergies. Included as part of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.
- Was principal sponsor (or lead Republican) on legislation that will help shape debate during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress:
- **Clean Energy Act of 2009** – to promote further investment and development of the nation’s clean energy technologies, including doubling U.S. nuclear power production within 20 years.
  - **Auto Stock for Every Taxpayer Act** – to require the Treasury to distribute to individual taxpayers all its stock in General Motors (GM) and Chrysler within one year following the emergence of the companies from bankruptcy proceedings.
  - **Improving the Teaching and Learning of American History and Civics Act** – to improve and better coordinate federal education programs that deal with U.S. History, expand the Presidential and Congressional Academies to work in coordination with the National Park Service, and establish a 10-State NAEP pilot exam in U.S. History.
  - **Preserving Choice in Student Lending** – to preserve choice in student lending for both students and institutions of higher learning by keeping the popular

Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. Accepted as an amendment to the Senate version of President Obama's budget.

- **Appalachia Restoration Act** – to prohibit the dumping of mining waste filling our valleys and streams, effectively ending the practice known as mountaintop removal mining.
- **Optional One Page Flat Tax Act** - to create an optional 17 percent federal flat tax with a single-page form. Americans would have the option of choosing this tax over the current income tax and its multi-page forms.
- **Ban the Importation of Low-Level Nuclear Waste** – to ban the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) from authorizing importation of certain low-level foreign-generated nuclear waste.
- **Small Business Jump Start Act** – to encourage job and small-business creation by cutting taxes on the start-up costs of opening a small business.
- **Strengthen and Unite Communities with Civics Education and English Skills Act** – to help legal American immigrants learn English and obtain a basic grasp of U.S. history and civics.
- **Stopping the Runaway Debt** – to require a 60-vote threshold to increase public debt beyond 90 percent of GDP in any given year. Offered as an amendment to the Senate version of the president's budget.
- **Medicare Patient IVIG Access Act of 2009** – to allow Medicare beneficiaries to access life-saving treatment for immune system disorders.
- **Child Safety, Care, and Education Continuity Act of 2010** – to create the framework for a Federal response for the education and child care needs of children effected by a major national disaster, based on the bipartisan work done in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
- **Tax Incentives for Small Business** – to make permanent bonus depreciation and small business expensing tax provisions from the 2008 stimulus plan.
- Cosponsored and helped pass into law numerous pieces of legislation, including:
  - **Sick Worker's Day of Remembrance** – resolution designating a national day of remembrance on October 30, 2009, for nuclear weapons program workers.
  - **Civil Rights History Project Act** – to establish a joint project between the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution to collect, organize and archive oral histories of key individuals involved in the Civil Rights movement.

- **Home Buyer Tax Credit Act** – to provide a tax credit of 10 percent of the purchase price, up to \$15,000, for the purchase of a principle residence. A modified version of this proposal that allowed a credit of up to \$8,000 became law as part of the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009.
- **Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act** – to provide new tools to ensure that completed absentee ballots from members of the Armed Forces make it home in time to be tallied.
- **Fixing Shortfalls in the Oak Ridge Pension Plan** – amendment to strengthen the pension plan of current and former Department of Energy (DOE) employees at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Oak Ridge) and Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12), making up for shortfalls caused by stock market losses. Without this amendment, additional funding for the pension plan could be taken from cleanup and defense programs at Oak Ridge and Y-12, resulting in job losses at both facilities.
- **TRICARE Coverage for Retired Military** – to allow certain retired military personnel to continue to purchase TRICARE standard coverage. Included in the Defense Authorization bill.
- **Trail of Tears Documentation Act** – to designate several sites in Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama as part of the historic Trail of Tears to help enhance public understanding of Native American history. (Sen. Alexander cosponsored the Trail of Tears bill in an earlier Congress and worked with Rep. Wamp and others to get it enacted as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.)
- Cosponsored the following legislation that passed the Senate:
  - **Broadcaster Freedom Act** – to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from reinstating the Fairness Doctrine requiring the government to regulate and restrict political views on the airways.
  - **60-Vote Threshold for Unfunded Federal Mandates on States** – to require that there be at least 60 votes to overcome a point of order that no legislation can impose an unfunded federal mandate on state and local governments. Offered as an amendment to the Senate version of the president’s budget resolution.
- Cosponsored other significant legislation, including:
  - **Protecting Medicare Solvency** – sense of the Senate resolution that any savings under the Medicare program should be invested back into the Medicare program, rather than creating new entitlement programs.

- **Allowing 72 Hours to Review a Bill** – resolution to require that all legislative matters be available and full scored by CBO 72 hours before consideration.
- **State and Local Sales Tax Deduction** – bipartisan legislation to permanently extend the ability to deduct State and local sales taxes.
- **Medical Care Access Protection Act** – medical liability reform measure that sets reasonable limits on noneconomic damages, while also providing for unlimited economic damages.
- **Title VII Fairness Act** – to promote fair pay and combat workplace discrimination by extending the time limit workers have to file suit for employment discrimination in cases where they cannot reasonably be expected to know they have been discriminated against. This legislation was a response to a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2007 that ruled that workers filing suit for pay discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 must do so within 180 days of the actual decision to discriminate against them.
- **Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act** – to help eliminate wasteful spending by requiring Congress to adopt a two-year budget resolution and two-year appropriations bills, so that Congress could spend most of its time every other year focusing on oversight and getting rid of programs and spending we don't need.
- **Combat Methamphetamine Enhancement Act of 2009** - to require all regulated retail sellers of certain listed chemical products used to make methamphetamine to submit self-certifications of compliance with the requirements of such Act to the Attorney General.
- **Fuel Reduction using Electrons to End Dependence on the Mid-East (FREEDOM) Act** – to help ensure the United States establishes and maintains global market leadership in plug-in electric vehicle and component production, like batteries and smart grid technologies.
- **Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility Safe Closure Act** – to prohibit the transfer of detainees from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to any facility in the United States.
- **Performance Rights Act** – to alter copyright tax law to compensate musicians when their work is played on the radio.
- **Healthy Americans Act** – to provide every American with affordable, private health insurance without adding to the debt.

- **Secret Ballot Protection Act** – to guarantee the right of workers considering unionization to a secret ballot that would protect them from intimidation or coercion.
- **Improve Military Survivors' Compensation** – to increase compensation for approximately 59,000 survivors of service members who died because of service-related illnesses or disabilities.
- **Repeal the Sunset on the Reduction of Capital Gains Rates** - to make permanent the tax relief on capital gains and dividend payments originally approved by Congress in 2003.
- **National Guard and Reserve Retired Pay Equity Act** – to allow more members of the National Guard and Reserve to draw their retirement pay before the age of 60.
- **National Language Act of 2009** – to declare English the national language of the United States.
- **Patient's Choice Act** – to promote universal access to quality, affordable health care, without adding billions of dollars in new debt or taxes.
- **Free Enterprise Act** – to require Congressional approval for any release of TARP funds that results in the government owning common or preferred stock in a company.
- **Budgetary Accountability Commission** – to create a Commission on Budgetary Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies, which would seek to reduce unnecessary federal spending on redundant or outdated federal programs.
- **Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Improvement Act of 2009** – to ensure that compensation for the families of sick nuclear workers won't be taken away in cases where sick workers or their eligible survivors die after they have filed applications but before their claims complete the 3 to 7 year claims process.
- **Secure America through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act** – to increase border security, improve the existing voluntary employer verification system while making it mandatory, and strengthen state and local law enforcement efforts to reduce illegal immigration.
- **Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act of 2009** – to continue providing scholarships to underprivileged students in Washington, D.C. to attend local private schools of their choice, which is a model program for the country.

- **Pay It Back Act** – returns taxpayer investments by requiring repaid TARP funds, any proceeds from the sale of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac stock, and unused stimulus funds to be used to reduce the federal deficit.
- **Holding ACORN Accountable** – to prohibit recipients of TARP assistance from funding ACORN.
- **TARP Recipient Ownership Trust Act** - to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to delegate a private entity to manage of assets purchased under the Troubled Asset Relief Program on behalf of U.S. taxpayers.
- **Federal Reserve Accountability Act** – to monitor and protect taxpayer dollars without intruding upon the Federal Reserve’s independent monetary policy or its role as lender of last resort.
- **Prevent Health Care Fraud Act** - to provide for the establishment of the Office of Deputy Secretary for Health Care Fraud Prevention.
- **Meth Mouth Prevention and Community Recovery Act** - to expand and intensify the clinical research, health services research, and public health research on associations between substance use disorders, oral health, and the provision of dental care.
- **Tax Credit for Energy Efficient Windows and Doors** - to make more energy efficient windows, doors, and skylights eligible for tax credits.

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

Was honored for his legislative work by numerous groups, including:

- Associated Builders and Contractors
- The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club
- Honorary Park Ranger of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- National Association of Music Merchants
- VH1 Save the Music Foundation
- Legislator of the Year for 2008 from the Information Technology Industry Council
- U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Immune Deficiency Foundation

Also accomplished the following:

- **Authored *Newsweek* Cover Story** – wrote “The Three-Year Solution” cover story for *Newsweek* outlining his proposal that some universities offer programs for qualified students to obtain bachelor’s degrees in three years to cut down on costs.

- **Blueprint for 100 New Nuclear Plants in 20 Years** – authored a blueprint for greater nuclear power, part of a “four-step low-cost clean energy plan” supported by Senate Republicans which also calls for plug-in electric vehicles, offshore exploration for natural gas and oil, and doubling energy research to make renewable energy cost-competitive.
- **Became Ranking Republican on the Senate Appropriations Interior Subcommittee** – was named the senior Republican on the U.S. Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and other national parks, the National Forest Service and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- **Hosted the TVA Caucus’ forum “Choices: TVA and Renewable Electricity” in Knoxville** – discussed with leading experts how solar panels, underwater river turbines, and wood chips “are promising for TVA, but Tennessee mountaintops are absolutely the wrong place for wind turbines three times as tall as Neyland Stadium skyboxes, not to mention the transmission lines that come with them.”
- **Helping Tennessee Hospitals** – secured measures that makes permanent the ability of the Regional Medical Center at Memphis (the Med) to be reimbursed by Arkansas and Mississippi for treating uninsured patients from those states, and provided a two-year extension of disproportionate share (DSH) payments to Tennessee hospitals serving patients unable to pay for treatment.
- **Keeping our Research Universities on Top** – led bipartisan request that the National Academies form a distinguished panel to assess the competitive position of the nation’s research universities.
- **Investigating ACORN** – requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) undertake a “top to bottom investigation on behalf of the taxpayer” of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN).