



Lamar Alexander

United States Senator • Tennessee

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander 2005-06

"I want to thank Senator Alexander for his tremendous leadership on the issue of economic competitiveness. He is a tireless advocate for education and other initiatives that will keep America's economy strong in the global marketplace."

- Bill Frist, Majority Leader, United States Senate

"Senator Alexander came to the Senate and before his first term has expired he has taken the lead on this mammoth piece of legislation. It falls automatically that Senator Alexander deserves the credit for getting it started."

- Senator Pete Domenici

"Senator Alexander has, at every step in this process, been pushing to get this initiative one step closer to the finish line."

- Senator Jeff Bingaman

During the past two years Senator Alexander's primary legislative priority has been working with a bipartisan group of Senators on competitiveness legislation to ensure that America keeps its edge in science and technology so that we keep our good jobs here rather than seeing them go overseas to India and China.

He recently joined his colleagues in introducing the **National Competitiveness Investment Act**. It focuses on three main areas that are important to maintaining and improving U.S. innovation in the 21st Century: first, increasing research investment; second, strengthening educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from elementary through graduate school; and third, establishing a President's Council on Innovation and Competitiveness.

Several sections of the National Competitiveness Investment Act are derived from proposals in the Protecting America's Competitive Edge (PACE) Act, which Alexander introduced with Senators Domenici, Bingaman and Barbara Mikulski earlier this year, and which has 70 cosponsors – 35 Republicans and 35 Democrats.

The PACE Act implemented the recommendations contained in the “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” report which came in response to a question Senators Alexander and Bingaman asked the National Academies in May 2005: “What are the ten top actions that federal policy makers could take to enhance the science and technology enterprise so the United States can successfully compete, prosper and be secure in the global community of the 21st century?”

During the last two years (**2005-06**) Senator Alexander also:

- Was principal sponsor of eight legislative proposals that are now law:
 - **Hurricane Education Recovery Act** – provides funding to assist with the cost of educating 150,000 public and non-public school students in grades K-12 who were displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Also provides \$750 million in Restart Aid to help repair, restock and reopen schools in the states most affected by the storms. Passed as an Enzi-Kennedy amendment to the Deficit Reduction Act and later became law as part of the Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06) Defense Appropriations Bill.
 - **Land and Water Conservation Fund** – provides a reliable funding source for the LWCF for the first time in 40 years by setting aside 12.5 percent of the revenues from oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico for states and localities to use for public outdoor recreation areas and facilities such as parks, greenways, and forests. Passed as part of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act.
 - **PREEMIE Act** – provides \$65 million to increase research into why babies are born too early, to reduce that number, and to be able to take better care of babies when they are born too soon.
 - **Presidential and Congressional Academies** – establishes funding for the first Presidential Academies for K-12 teachers of U.S. history and civics, and Congressional Academies for incoming high school juniors and seniors studying those subjects. These summer academies were authorized by legislation introduced by Alexander that became law in 2004. Funding was included in the FY06 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill at Alexander’s request
 - In April of 2005, he introduced the **Natural Gas Price Reduction Act**. Three of the bill’s provisions later became law as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. They included:
 - **Liquefied Natural Gas Facility Siting Process** – streamlines the siting process for LNG terminals to make it easier to import natural gas and therefore lower the price.
 - **Energy Department Innovation** – creates a study to determine whether the Department of Energy should follow the management practices of a Pentagon research agency (DARPA) that contributed to innovations like the Internet, stealth technology and global positioning systems.

- **Solar Tax Credit Extension** – provides a 30 percent solar investment tax credit for homeowners and businesses who install solar energy cells over the next two years.
 - **Increased Funding for Science** – authored a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee signed by 68 Senators that helped to significantly increase funding for the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science which oversees the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The Office of Science received a \$170 million increase above the Administration’s FY06 budget request in the final version of the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. Seventy senators have signed a similar letter for FY07.
 - **College Piracy** – resolution expressing the sense of Congress that colleges and universities should adopt policies and educational programs on their campuses to help deter and eliminate illicit copyright infringement occurring on their computer systems and networks.
 - **National Charter Schools Week** – resolution congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education.
- Was principal sponsor of the following legislation that passed the Senate:
 - **Strengthening American Citizenship Act** – helps and encourages legal immigrants who are prospective citizens to learn English, American history and our way of government. Provides grants of up to \$500 for English language courses to legal immigrants, and allows those who become fluent in English to become citizens after four years of living in the U.S. rather than five. Codifies the Oath of Allegiance, giving it the same standing as the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.
 - Was principal sponsor of the following legislation that passed out of committee:
 - **American History Achievement Act** – provides for better testing of American history so we know where it is being taught well and where it’s being taught poorly so that improvements can be made. Part of Alexander’s ongoing effort to put the teaching of American history back into its rightful place in our classrooms so students will grow up learning what it means to be an American.
 - **Caring for Children Act of 2005** – reauthorizes the Child Care and Developmental Block Grant program (CCDBG) which provides funding to parents to cover the cost of childcare.
 - Was principal sponsor of four pieces of legislation that will help shape debate during the 110th Congress:
 - **Clean Air Planning Act** – controls health-damaging pollution from coal-fired power plants by reducing sulfur dioxide emissions by 82 percent, nitrogen oxide emissions by 68 percent, and mercury emissions by 90 percent by 2015. It includes the first-ever

cap on carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, capping them at today's levels by 2010 and requiring power plants to reduce CO2 emissions to 2001 levels in 2015.

- **Healthcare Choices for Seniors Act** – gives Americans 65 and over the choice to delay joining Medicare and continue using a Health Savings Account.
 - **America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids Act** – provides scholarships of up to \$4,000 to low-income children in persistently underperforming schools to attend the private school of their choice, or up to \$3,000 in intensive tutoring services for children who don't want to change schools.
 - **Federal Consent Decrees Fairness Act** – makes it easier for state and local governments to modify and terminate consent decrees issued by federal courts so that policy decisions are put back into the hands of the state and local officials elected to make those decisions.
- Chaired 14 hearings as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Energy and the Subcommittee on Education and Early Childhood Development.

* * * * *

- Co-sponsored and helped enact into law numerous pieces of legislation, including:
 - **Energy Policy Act of 2005** – establishes a long-term energy policy for the United States.
 - **Songwriters Capital Gains Tax Equity Act** – amends the Internal Revenue Code to provide fairness to songwriters by dropping the rate they pay on their catalogue sales from 35 to 15 percent, the same capital gains tax rate that other businesses pay.
 - **Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act** – opens up additional areas in the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas exploration to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.
 - **Deficit Reduction Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 2005** – reduces the federal deficit by \$35 billion over the next five years.
 - **Federal Funding and Accountability Act** – creates an Internet-based searchable database of federal government spending, making the government more transparent and accountable to taxpayers.
 - **Class Action Fairness Act of 2005** – curbs class action lawsuit abuse by allowing greater scrutiny of settlements that benefit plaintiffs' attorneys at the expense of consumers. Moves more national class action lawsuits into federal courts that are better suited to consider cases involving plaintiffs and defendants from multiple states.

- **Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act** – prevents law-abiding firearms dealers and manufacturers from being held responsible for the criminal acts of third parties.
- **Breast Cancer Research Stamp Extension** – extends the breast cancer research postage stamp for two years. To date, the stamp has raised more than \$37 million for breast cancer research.
- **Family Entertainment and Copyright Act** – provides for the protection of intellectual copyrights and authorizes the sale of equipment that skips violent/sexual content on DVDs so they are family friendly.
- Co-sponsored the following legislation which passed the Senate:
 - **Child Custody Protection Act** – makes it a federal offense to transport a minor across state lines for an abortion if doing so is intended to circumvent a parental notification or consent statute in the minor’s home state.
 - **Wired for Health Quality Care Act** – encourages the use of electronic health records to improve patient care and bring cost savings for health care providers.
 - **Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act** - requires the destruction of equipment used to make counterfeit goods and provides criminal penalties for trafficking in counterfeit labels used to deceive consumers.
- Co-sponsored the following legislation which passed out of committee:
 - **Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act** – reauthorizes and improves Head Start programs by strengthening the academic portion of the program, increasing accountability, and strengthening teacher qualifications. The bill also includes Alexander’s proposal to establish a network of 200 Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood built around exemplary Head Start centers, which would model best practices and coordinate early childhood services in their communities.
 - **Stop Over Spending (SOS) Act** – implements steps to control federal spending, such as giving the President the line-item veto, restoring spending caps for Congress, establishing a commission to review federal agencies and programs to eliminate duplicative or wasteful programs, and creating a two-year budget so Congress can devote more time to oversight and getting rid of programs and spending we don’t need.
 - **Unsolved Civil Rights Act** – establishes an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice to investigate unsolved Civil Rights era murders.

- **Combat Meth Act** – addresses the illegal production, distribution and use of methamphetamine in the United States.
- **Biodefense and Pandemic Vaccine and Drug Development Act** – better prepares the U.S. for deliberate, accidental and natural outbreaks of illness.
- Co-sponsored other significant legislation, including:
 - **Jobs Protection and Estate Tax Reform Act** – permanently repeals the estate tax.
 - **Marriage Protection Amendment** – proposes an amendment to the Constitution declaring that marriage in the U.S. shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman.
 - **Protection of Homes, Small Businesses, and Private Property Act** –protects private property rights by limiting the power of eminent domain.
 - **Permanent Deduction of State and Local Sales Taxes** – amends the Internal Revenue Code to make permanent the deduction of state and local general sales taxes.
 - **Call Home Act** – directs the Federal Communications Commission to reduce the cost of calling home for military personnel stationed or deployed outside the United States so they can keep in touch with their loved ones.
 - **Economic Development Act** – allows states to continue offering certain tax incentives in order to promote economic development.
- Was honored for his legislative work by numerous groups:
 - Park Achievement Award** from the National Parks Conservation Association
 - Engineering Deans Council Appreciation Award** from the Engineering Deans
 - Manufacturing Legislative Excellence Award** from National Assn. of Manufacturers
 - Small Business Champion** by the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council
 - The Hero of the Taxpayer Award** by Americans for Tax Reform
 - National Congressional Award** from the National Recreation and Park Assoc.
 - Citation of Merit** from Disabled American Veterans
 - Friend of the Outdoors Award** from the Outdoor Industry Association
 - Spirit of Enterprise Award** from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 - For Support of Head Start** by African American Community Action Leaders
 - Guardian of Worker Freedom Award** by the Alliance for Worker Freedom
 - Champion of the Merit Shop** from the Associated Builders and Contractors
 - GRAMMYS on the Hill** award for contributions to the music community
 - Guardian of Seniors' Rights Award** from the 60 Plus Association
 - Franklin Award** from the National Conference on Citizenship
 - Good Guys Award** from Nashville Women's Political Caucus
 - Solar Champion Award** from Solar Energy Industry Association
 - Friends of the Shareholder Award** from the American Shareholders Association
- Made 297 more visits to Tennessee counties, on top of the 158 visits he made in 2003-04 and has visited all 95 Tennessee counties.

- Chaired two National Republican Senatorial Committee President's Dinners which raised over \$20 million for Republican Senate candidates.

#

December 10, 2006