



# Lamar Alexander

United States Senator • Tennessee

## U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander's Record of Achievement 2010

During the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Led the Charge against "Obamacare"

*"The Republican leaders, Mitch McConnell and John Boehner, were smart enough to stand back and let Senator Lamar Alexander lead the way, which he did genially and intelligently."*  
–David Brooks, New York Times columnist on Blair House healthcare summit

At the president's Blair House Summit focused on debating the new healthcare law, Senator Alexander was the [lead-off Republican speaker](#) in rebutting the Administration's proposal. Alexander said, "The only thing bipartisan about the new healthcare bill is the opposition to it." Alexander and the President had a [small argument](#) over whether the president's proposal would raise premiums – the Congressional Budget Office's report confirmed that Alexander was right.

### Led the Republican Message

As chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, Senator Alexander served as third in Republican leadership in the US Senate. With this position, the Senator works through collaboration with fellow Republicans to lead the message of his party.

### Passed the America COMPETES Act

Senator Alexander led the effort in the Senate for passage of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 to help America "keep our brainpower advantage" by investing in scientific research and improving math and science education. At a time of nearly 10 percent unemployment, this legislation is more important than ever. Investment in scientific research is one part of a pro-growth agenda that should also include keeping tax rates low and cutting regulations that put a wet blanket on job creation.

## Funded Recovery Efforts after the 2010 Flood

The Supplemental Appropriations bill enabled \$5.1 billion to replenish the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund assisting Tennesseans with recovery from the May 2010 floods. Alexander said this would be of “enormous help to local and state governments in rebuilding roads, public buildings, and bridges – like the six bridges destroyed in Hickman County – and to individuals who need help with housing.” It also provided \$100 million for Community Development Block Grants, which the Senator said “could help businesses closed by the flood to restart. As many as 30 percent of the businesses hit by the flood might never reopen.”

## Legislation

This year, Senator Alexander:

Was principal sponsor (or lead Republican) of 2 pieces of legislation that passed the Senate:

- **Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks** – A resolution honoring the life and achievements of Dr. Hooks of Memphis, TN who was a civil rights leader, an American veteran and distinguished leader in his community.
- **American Eagle Day** – A resolution designating June 20, 2010 as “American Eagle Day” celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States.

Cosponsored and helped pass into law these pieces of legislation:

- **National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2010** – A bipartisan bill to extend the National Flood Insurance Program through September 30, 2011. This provided great help to Tennessee homeowners and small business owners putting their lives back together after the May 2010 flood in Middle and West Tennessee.
- **America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010** – A bill that will help America keep our brainpower advantage by investing in scientific research and improving math and science education. This bill’s investments in scientific research are one part of a pro-growth agenda that should also include keeping tax rates low and cutting regulations that put a wet blanket on job creation.
- **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Reauthorization Act (CAPTA) of 2010** – A bill to strengthen state efforts in preventing and detecting child abuse and neglect.

- **Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act** – A bill that improves the quality standards of potable drinking water for Americans by decreasing the allowable amount of traceable lead.

Was principal sponsor (or lead Republican) of two pieces of legislation during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress:

- **Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010** – 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.
- **PREEMIE Act** – A bill to protect premature births which is the number one cause of infant death in America. With an average of 236 premature babies born a week in Tennessee, this bill would ensure continued federal support for the scientists and doctors who are looking into the causes of premature births and how we can prevent them.

Cosponsored the following legislation that passed the Senate:

- **Missile Defense Amendment** – this amendment to the New START Treaty specified US policy to include the continued development and deployment of our missile defense systems including all phases of the Phased Adaptive Approach to missile defenses in Europe maintaining the option to use Ground-Based Interceptors. It also reiterates that this does not and will not threaten the strategic balance with the Russian Federation.
- **Lead Paint Rule** – An amendment that provided more time and resources to comply with the EPA’s lead paint rule so Tennesseans could immediately start the rebuilding process following the May 2010 flood devastation.
- **National Day of Remembrance for Nuclear Weapons Workers** – A resolution recognizing the efforts of the thousands of Americans – more in Tennessee than in any other state – who worked behind the scenes during the Cold War in nuclear weapons facilities. America won the Cold War in part because of their sacrifice for the credibility of our nuclear deterrent.
- **National Charter Schools Week** – A resolution congratulating charter schools across the United States for ongoing contributions to education.

- **National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week** – A resolution recognizing the significance of historically black colleges and universities in America.

Cosponsored the following legislation that passed out of committee:

- **Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act** – A bill to authorize the Attorney General to bring an action against any website that is “dedicated to infringing activities.”
- **Renewal of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003** – A bill to sanction the ruling Burmese military junta, to strengthen Burma's democratic forces and support and recognize the National League of Democracy as the legitimate representative of the Burmese people.

Cosponsored other significant legislation, including:

- **Small Business Paperwork Mandate Elimination Act** – A bill to repeal a provision of the new healthcare law that requires small and large businesses to fill out an IRS form each time they purchase anything that costs \$600 or more.
- **Earmark Transparency Act** – A bill that provides a two-year ban on earmarks, which became a symbol of wasteful spending.
- **Jumpstarting Electric Vehicles** – A bill that promotes the rapid, near-term deployment of plug-in electric drive motor vehicles.
- **Preventing EPA from Using The Clean Air Act to Regulate Greenhouse Gas** – A joint resolution disapproving an EPA rule to regulate carbon because carbon has too great an impact on American jobs and lives to leave in the hands of unelected bureaucrats – that job is the responsibility of an elected Congress.
- **Clean Air Act Amendments of 2010** – A bipartisan bill that cuts mercury emissions by 90 percent and tighten national limits on emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) from coal-fired power plants.
- **United States Nuclear Fuel Management Corporation Establishment Act of 2010** – A bill that would establish a new process and entity outside the government bureaucracy to manage spent nuclear fuel in the most cost effective and safest manner possible and ensure that the fees paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund are used for their intended purpose.

- **Achievement Through Prevention Act** – A bill to expand the use of school-wide positive behavioral interventions and support early intervening services in order to improve student academic achievement, reduce disciplinary problems in school, and to improve coordination with similar activities and services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- **Bipartisan Commission for Responsible Fiscal Action Amendment** – An amendment to establish a bipartisan commission to propose how to bring our alarming federal debt under control. The Conrad-Gregg Commission would require that any proposal receive an up-or-down vote by Congress.
- **Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2010** – A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve public health through better air quality by replacing, upgrading and modernizing older diesel engines and equipment.
- **Renewable Energy Access Through Leasing (REAL) Act of 2010** – A bipartisan bill that expands the availability of renewable energy leasing programs to households by making it more cost-effective for Americans to have solar panels installed on their homes and for any extra solar power to be sold back to the power grid.
- **Oil Spill Response Improvement Act of 2010** – A bill amending the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to improve oil drilling safety and increase our domestic production while reducing our dependency on foreign oil.
- **9/11 Terrorist Prosecution Funding** – A bill to try the terrorists of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in military tribunals instead of the domestic court system in the US.
- **National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) Reauthorization Act of 2010** – A bill to reduce an abuse to prescription drugs.
- **Helping Children's Hospitals**– A bill to restore the application of the 340B drug discount program for children's hospitals.
- **National September 11 Memorial & Museum Commemorative Medal Act of 2010** – A bill establishing the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center and commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the terrorist attack.
- **Haiti Assistance Income Tax Incentive Act** – A bill allowing taxpayers to deduct contributions made for the relief of victims in areas affected by the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti on their 2009 tax returns.

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:

- Guardian of Small Business Award *from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)*
- Certificate of Appreciation *from the Citizens for Fort Campbell*
- Defender of the Mountains *from the Alliance for Appalachia*
- Spirit of Enterprise Award *from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce*
- 2010 President's Award *from the National Music Publisher Association*
- Defender of Children Award *from the First Focus Campaign for Children*
- 2010 Corridor Champion *from the Tennessee Valley Corridor*
- Distinguished Leadership Award *from the Nuclear Infrastructure Council*
- Award for Outstanding Support of America's Nuclear Complex Workers *from the Cold War Patriots*
- Legislator of the Year *from the American Action Network*
- Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence *from the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)*
- USA Award for Distinguished Public Service *from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.*
- 2010 Thomas Jefferson Award *from the International Foodservice Distributors Association*
- Award of Appreciation *from the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators*
- Museums Advocacy Day 2010 Honoree *by The American Association of Museums*

Also authored the following:

- ***Going to War in Sailboats: Why Nuclear Power Beats Windmills for America's Green Energy Future*** – A compilation of five speeches proposing a series of low cost, clean, reliable energy policies that would put America on a path to energy independence and economic prosperity.  
< [http://alexander.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&File\\_id=1588261e-d195-4983-a3a4-309d8a828425](http://alexander.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&File_id=1588261e-d195-4983-a3a4-309d8a828425)>
- **“Nuclear Energy Is Cheap and Reliable” Op-ed in *US News and World Report*** – Nuclear power provides 20 percent of America's electricity and 70 percent of our clean, emissions free electricity. Plus it is available more than 90 percent of the time while other forms of clean power are only able to provide about 2 percent of our electricity and is only available when the wind blows or the sun shines, which is about a third of the

time. America's technology, industrial and manufacturing sectors need cheap, reliable, clean energy to compete in the global marketplace and create jobs.

<<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2010/07/19/Lamar-Alexander-Nuclear-Energy-Is-Cheap-and-Reliable>>

- **“A Federal Impediment to Quicker Degrees” Op-ed in *Inside Higher Ed*** – A push for institutions of higher learning to explore innovative ways to provide high-quality postsecondary education. Three year degrees may not be a fit for every college and university in America, but it is vital to our competitiveness as a nation that we develop other ideas to improve the efficiency of higher education and expand access to more Americans. The last thing needed is more federal mandates on higher education.

<<http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2010/09/21/alexander>>

- **“Charge Ahead into an Electric Car Future” Joint Op-ed with Sens. Lamar Alexander, Byron Dorgan, and Jeff Merkley in the *Detroit Free Press*** – Rethinking our energy future, especially America's dependence on foreign oil. The bipartisan Electric Vehicle bill increased incentives for electric vehicle purchases and put additional effort toward research and development.

<[http://alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord\\_id=9e5dcb2b-c999-4242-875c-333b11326941&ContentType\\_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group\\_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b](http://alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=9e5dcb2b-c999-4242-875c-333b11326941&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b)>

- **“Why Make Government the Prime Source for Student Loans?” Op-ed in *Washington Post*** – The Obama Administration pushed for another takeover, this time in the student loan system. If the goal is to save students money, Senator Alexander asks, “Why not just reduce the interest rate by 1.5 percentage points, to 5.3 percent, saving students \$2,240 in interest?”

<[http://alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord\\_id=1f880a3b-d04c-46a7-bd61-8920d003b88e&ContentType\\_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group\\_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&MonthDisplay=3&YearDisplay=2010](http://alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=1f880a3b-d04c-46a7-bd61-8920d003b88e&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&MonthDisplay=3&YearDisplay=2010)>

- **“Step by Step: Incremental Improvements Are Better Than Comprehensive Reforms” Op-ed in *National Review Online*** – The approach to healthcare reform should be done step-by-step because Congress does not do comprehensive well. Finding a useful process is the fundamental difference between the Democratic comprehensive approach and the Republican step-by-step approach.

<<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/229014/step-step/lamar-alexander>>

- **“Why the New START Treaty Makes America Safer” Op-ed in *Tennessean* and *News Sentinel*** – The New START treaty between the US and Russia keeps America safe with a nuclear deterrent including “enough nuclear warheads to blow any attacker to kingdom come.” With the support of a number many military and intelligence leaders, the treaty implementation also includes continued investment in Tennessee's Oak Ridge complex as a part of the nuclear modernization plan.

[http://alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord\\_id=0256a3c3-8363-4b8e-86ac-6de59158be97&ContentType\\_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group\\_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&YearDisplay=2010](http://alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=0256a3c3-8363-4b8e-86ac-6de59158be97&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&YearDisplay=2010)