



Lamar Alexander

United States Senator • Tennessee

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander's Record of Achievement 2012

"It is refreshing to hear someone as experienced in politics and government as Lamar Alexander talking about a common-sense approach to governing in Washington. ...

We believe he knows a thing or two about politics, government and statesmanship. We don't have to agree with him on every point, but his insights and understanding of complex issues warrant serious consideration...

...he still will stand heads and shoulders above many of his peers because of his long experience, political insights and informed understanding of issues."

--The Jackson Sun

"Tennessee should be proud of its senior United States senator. He has represented his state and his nation well. Lamar Alexander has devoted his adult life to public service, from the U.S. Senate to the governor's mansion to the presidency of the University of Tennessee, and he has done so with honor and integrity."

--The Mountain Press

"Tennessee's fine U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander is a realist not an alarmist."

--Chattanooga Times Free Press

"Congratulations, Lamar, on your honor conferred by the emperor of Japan. You're certainly deserving as a trailblazing statesman who demonstrated the value of private/public enterprise and international cooperation. And yes, thanks for all those jobs, too."

--The Daily Times

"By itself, resurrecting Alexander's grand swap wouldn't solve states' budget squeeze. ...But it would help. This is one of those pragmatic proposals that ought to unite liberals and conservatives."

--Robert Samuelson in the Washington Post

“Sen. Lamar Alexander has a crazy idea. In a year in which politics is king, in which Democrats’ chief goal is to bludgeon and beat the Republicans, and vice versa, Alexander wants to actually legislate.”

-- National Journal

“We ...commend Senator Alexander who voluntarily stepped down from a party leadership post in order to avoid constraints and to contribute his valuable insight into some of our nation’s most serious problems.”

-The Daily Times

“U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander has been consistent in his support for clean air in Tennessee’s skies, even when it has brought the wrath of special-interest groups... Citizens of this state should stand with Alexander on this issue.”

--The Knoxville News Sentinel

During the 112th Congress

Led fight against extension of wind production tax credit

Alexander served as the Senate leader in the fight to end the wind production tax credit, arguing in speeches from the Senate floor, op-eds in major national publications, and a speech delivered at the Heritage Foundation in Washington that Washington cannot afford to pay billions of taxpayer dollars in subsidies that deliver “a puny amount of unreliable electricity.” Extending the 20-year-old tax credit just one more year would cost taxpayers another \$12.1 billion over 10 years. A National Journal story, “Alexander Leads Charge Against Wind Credit,” noted that this year “the tide started to turn in Alexander’s favor,” against the credit.

Led Senate Committee that Preserves the Senate as “Protector of Minority Rights”

Alexander was elected unanimously by Senate Republicans to serve during the 112th Congress as the highest-ranking Republican, known as the “Ranking Member,” on the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. The Rules Committee is where, Alexander said, “the Senate’s tradition as protector of minority rights from the ‘tyranny of the majority’ is preserved.” Alexander steered the effort to eliminate Senate confirmation on minor administration appointments, to make the Senate more effective and better able to focus on bigger issues like the massive debt and out-of-control Washington spending. In the spring, he opposed Democratic attempts to rewrite campaign-finance rules in the middle of an election year.

Stood up for Tennessee’s meningitis victims

In the first days of the deadly meningitis outbreak, officials in Tennessee had reached out to the Centers for Disease Control and tracked down the source of the illness—helping reduce the number of lives lost. Sen. Alexander helped lead the first Senate hearing to investigate the

circumstances surrounding the outbreak, inviting Tennessee officials to submit testimony, and requesting that Dr. Marion Kainer of the Tennessee Department of Health testify. As a result of testimony at the hearing, Alexander immediately began working on legislation with other members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to be introduced early in the next Congress to try to prevent this from ever happening again.

Legislation

This year, Senator Alexander:

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

- **American Eagle Day Resolution** – A resolution designating June 20, 2011, as "American Eagle Day", and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States.
- **National Park Overflights** – An amendment to clarify the roles of the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Park Service in the administration of air tour management plans for the national parks, and clarifies the National Park Service's authority to manage the traffic flow of air tours operating over national parks,
- **National Charter Schools Week** – A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for ongoing contributions to education.

Was principal sponsor (or lead Republican) of three pieces of legislation:

- **Interest Rate Reduction Act** – A bill to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans
- **SMART Jobs Act** – A bill that would create a path forward for foreign-born, American-educated holders of masters and doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields to remain in the United States to work and create jobs. The bill would help keep the most talented scientists and engineers from other countries from coming to school in the U.S. and going home to compete with American companies and create jobs – perhaps even the next Google – in other countries.
- **Wind Developer Double Dip** – An amendment to the farm bill to prevent wind developers from benefiting from both an energy tax credit and new loans or loan guarantees provided in the bill

- **Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act** – A bill to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Hanford, Washington,

Was principal sponsor (or lead Republican) of legislation that passed out of committee:

- **Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2011**– 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.

Cosponsored the following legislation that passed the Senate:

- **PREEMIE Reauthorization Act** -- A bill to expand research, education, and intervention activities related to preterm birth, which is the number one cause of infant death in America. With more than 200 premature babies born on average each 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.
- **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.
- **Benghazi Resolution**– A resolution commending the four American public servants who died in Benghazi, Libya, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, for their tireless efforts on behalf of the American people and condemning the violent attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi.
- **National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week** -- A resolution recognizing the significance of historically black colleges and universities in America.
- **Senate Battery Recharging Station Act** – A bill to authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish battery recharging stations for privately owned vehicles in parking areas under the jurisdiction of the Senate at no net cost to the Federal Government.
- **Small Business Saturday** – A resolution designating November 24, 2012, as "Small Business Saturday" to increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses.

- **Internet Freedom Resolution** – A resolution calling on the U.S. government to reinforce its commitment to Internet freedom by opposing international efforts to cede greater Internet regulatory power to the International Telecommunications Union.
- **Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the First Morrill Act** – A resolution celebrating the 150th anniversary of the signing of the First Morrill Act by President Abraham Lincoln and affirming the continuing importance and vitality of the land-grant institutions, which are the fruitful product of the extraordinary commitment to higher education in the United States

Cosponsored the following legislation that passed out of committee:

- **North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act of 2012** –A bill to continue the restoration and protection of North American wetlands.
- **National Labor Relations Board Resolution** – A resolution of congressional disapproval of the National Labor Relations Board submitted rule to speed up workplace elections, a move which would ambush employers with union elections before employers have a fair chance to learn their rights and explain their views to employees, as required by law.
- **Iran Elections Resolution** – A resolution calling for free and fair elections in Iran.

Cosponsored other significant legislation, including:

- **Keystone Pipeline Approval** – A bill to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project and provide for environmental protection and government oversight.
- **No Budget, No Pay Act** – A bill to cut off pay to Members of Congress if Congress doesn't pass a budget and all of the appropriations bills by the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1, as required by law.
- **Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 2012** – A bill to repeal an ObamaCare mandate that violates the religious liberties and conscience rights of faith-based institutions by forcing them to offer employees insurance coverage for contraceptives.
- **Preserving America's Family Farms Act** – A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Labor from enacting a rule that rule regarding child labor on farms that would take away agriculture job opportunities for our nation's youth.

- **Songwriters Tax Simplification Reauthorization Act** – A bill to amend the tax code to make permanent the rule providing 5-year amortization of expenses incurred in creating or acquiring music or music copyrights.
- **Better Pharmaceuticals and Devices for Children Act of 2012** – A bill to continue a program of incentives and requirements for pharmaceutical companies to study the effects of new medicines on children, helping preventing prescriptions for kids that are ineffective or have bad results.
- **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012** – A bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and increase protection of and assistance to all victims of domestic violence.
- **Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 2012** – A bill to repeal a mandate in the new health care law that requires religious institutions to offer employees reproductive services that violate the institutions' religious
- **Rewarding Achievement and Incentivizing Successful Employees Act, or RAISE Act** – A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees, even when operating under a collective bargaining agreement.
- **Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2012** – A bill to encourage enhancing the competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment.
- **Companionship Exemption Protection Act** – A bill to preserve the minimum wage and overtime pay exemption for individuals who work as in-home companions, preventing Medicaid cost increases on states, job losses for companions, and reducing access to affordable health care options for elderly and disabled Americans.
- **Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act** – A bill to turn several Manhattan Project sites, including areas of Oak Ridge, into a National Historical Park.
- **Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Programs Act of 2012** – A bill to prohibit the administration from waiving work requirements for the program of block grants to states for temporary assistance for needy families.
- **Department of Energy High-End Computing Improvement Act of 2012** – A bill to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy.

- **Olympic Tax Elimination Act** -- A bill to end taxation of medal winners' honorariums and the cash value of the medals won by Americans during the Olympics.
- **Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2012** -- A bill that would cut federal spending immediately, cap all future spending, and require that Congress pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution
- **Coal Ash Recycling and Oversight Act of 2012** – A bill to facilitate the recovery and use of coal ash.
- **Housing for Homeless Students Act of 2012** – A bill to allow full-time students who were formerly homeless to qualify as tenants under the low income housing tax credit program.
- **ATM fee disclosure bill** – A bill to amend the Electronic Funds Transfer Act to eliminate duplicative ATM fee notice requirements. Fixing this law will cut down on frivolous lawsuits against banks and credit unions.

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:

- Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence from *The National Association of Manufacturers*
- Research and Development Policymaker of the 112th Congress from *The Nuclear Energy Institute*
- Distinguished Public Policy Award from *The Immune Deficiency Foundation*
- Spirit of Enterprise Award from the *United States Chamber of Commerce*
- Stafford Award from *Scenic America*
- Congressional Scholarship Award from the *Fund for American Studies*
- Guardian of Small Business Award from the *National Federation of Independent Business*
- “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star” from the Emperor of Japan
- Congressional Leadership Award from the *Appalachian Trail Conservancy*

Also authored the following:

- “No Child Left Behind Lessons” Op-ed in *Education Week* – “The No Child Left Behind Act has been a noble experiment. It has made an important contribution to the

national effort to improve the quality of our schools. But there is a difference between a national concern, which education is, and a federal government solution driven by Washington. The lesson of the last 10 years is that it is time to move most decisions about whether teachers and schools are succeeding or failing out of Washington and back to states and communities.”

http://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=ade92ef8-1cd5-451b-b0c5-39a037f49435&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&YearDisplay=2012

- **“Obama Undermining Checks and Balances in Our Constitution” Op-ed in *National Review*** – “This administration, over three years, has been arrogating more power to the executive branch of government and upsetting the delicate balance, which the Founders created for the purpose of guaranteeing to each of us as individuals the maximum amount of liberty... Equally disturbing to me has been this administration’s use of regulation and litigation to bypass the Congress and the will of the people when the Congress has a different point of view.”

http://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=75b7818f-1991-4ab4-97a9-48979df9f59a&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&YearDisplay=2012

- **“ObamaCare Will Punish State Budgets ” Joint op-ed with Senators Mike Johanns, John Hoeven, and Jim Risch in *The Wall Street Journal***– “Two years after ObamaCare was signed into law the American people are more opposed to it than ever. It is now clear that the law will impose heavy burdens on state and family budgets and increasingly possible that its mandate that all Americans purchase health insurance or face penalties will be ruled unconstitutional. As lawmakers, we need to repeal the law and do what we should have done in the first place: go step by step to reduce costs so that more people can afford insurance.”

http://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=6c6645a4-7c97-4086-86bd-f6e305f05cae&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&YearDisplay=2012

- **“Fighting Senate gridlock through self-restraint” Joint op-ed with Sen. Carl Levin in *The Washington Post*** – “Senate rules require, at most steps of the legislative process, agreement from all 100 senators; absent unanimous agreement, they entail a time-consuming process that requires a supermajority of 60 senators to move forward. Such rules protect minority interests. The Senate’s constitutional function is to rein in the haste that can grip other institutions in our federal system. But if every senator exercises his or her rights at once, nothing happens.”

http://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=6efdd444-fb84-40a4-bce1-873412459177&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&YearDisplay=2012

- **“Time for a Medicaid-Education Grand Swap” Op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*** – “When I was governor of Tennessee in the early 1980s, I traveled to meet with President Ronald Reagan in the Oval Office and offer that Grand Swap: Medicaid for K-12 education. The federal government would take over 100% of Medicaid, the federal health-care program mainly for low-income Americans, and states would assume all responsibility for the nation's 100,000 public schools. ... This trade would get at the heart of the problem with today's rising cost of college education: the policies that Washington has dreamed up and then handed off to the states to implement, costs and all. Chief among them: Medicaid.”

<http://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=983fa3c8-fa2e-4df0-82b5-858492f29e3d&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&YearDisplay=2012>

- **“Tennessee Needs Air Rule for Jobs as Well as Health” Op-ed in *Tennessean***– “TVA alone can’t clean up our air. Tennessee is bordered by more states than any other state. We are surrounded by our neighbors’ smokestacks. If we want more Nissan and Volkswagen plants, we will have to stop dirty air from blowing into Tennessee.” <
<http://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=a7528ce2-cc8d-48ca-a5c9-63ddfe1155a5&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&YearDisplay=2012>

- **“Puff, the Magic Drag on the Economy” Joint op-ed with Rep. Mike Pompeo in *The Wall Street Journal*** – “As Congress works to reduce spending and avert a debt crisis, lawmakers will have to decide which government projects are truly national priorities, and which are wasteful. A prime example of the latter is the production tax credit for wind power. It is set to expire on Dec. 31—but may be extended yet again, for the seventh time. ... There are many reasons to let this giveaway expire, including wind energy's inherent unreliability and its inability to stand on its own two feet after 20 years.”

<http://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=3312bac5-595e-4901-acba-199f565ebd2f&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&YearDisplay=2012>

- **“Time to Wind Down Wind Subsidies” Op-ed in *Roll Call*** – “Wind power supporters have proclaimed this “Wind Week” in Washington, launching events to pressure Congress to extend the wind production tax credit, which is set to expire next month. As we work to avoid the fiscal cliff, I suggest a different name — “Wind Down Wind Week.” It’s time to end this 20-year-old “temporary” taxpayer subsidy. The main reason is we can’t afford it. According to the Joint Tax Committee, just a one-year extension of the production tax credit will mean \$12.1 billion in taxpayer subsidies to wind developers over the next 10 years.”

<http://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=NewsArticles&ContentRecord_id=f4132991-6637-4aaf-82e7-00a72eaa65e9&ContentType_id=cc3ac18e-c52f-4861-b310-83ea6a7150c1&Group_id=303dc633-2307-45c8-ae71-4ba2ace2189b&YearDisplay=2012>