

# Senator Lamar Alexander

## 2014 Accomplishments



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# Press Highlights



“A protégé of the late Howard H. Baker Jr., Alexander is principled yet pragmatic. He will serve the state well if re-elected. Should the GOP gain control of the Senate, as not a few observers see as possible, he would be in an even better position to advance the state's interests in Washington. If that happens, he would be in line to chair the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development...

Alexander, however, has the breadth and depth of experience, as well as the statesmanlike personal qualities, that Tennesseans need in the U.S. Senate.”

## Chattanooga Times Free Press

"If Republicans win control of the Senate, Alexander would be in line to chair the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. As a member of the [committees] in the past year, he sponsored bills -- that actually passed the stagnant Senate -- that expanded research, education and intervention related to premature births and that prohibited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from restricting access to fishing below the dams on the Cumberland River.”

## The Washington Post

“Alexander is bent on fixing No Child Left Behind, and doing so in a way that allows both sides to declare victory in the Common Core debate. His Web site explains that he has been a proponent of the Every Child Ready for College or Career Act to fix NCLB...

Alexander's bill seems to move the ball in the right direction. For conservatives, school reform should be an issue around which they can rally — and demonstrate they can govern smartly. It is an issue in which they can demonstrate that they have the interests of poor and minority kids, most affected by cruddy schools, in mind. Those looking to keep picking fights on the right may be disappointed, but for students, school reformers, the party and the country Alexander's bill shows promise.”



“When Republicans officially take control of the Senate at the start of 2015, U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) will land the role of chairman on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions.

“Alexander provided examples of piecemeal steps the Republican Congress could take that would, in his view, improve Obamacare's provisions.

“Those include strengthening health savings accounts, allowing small businesses to band together to offer coverage, improving access to plans across state lines and allowing for major medical health plan options — all provisions that have been proposed by Senate Republicans. Alexander himself is the lead Senate sponsor of a bill that would free employers to incentivize healthy lifestyle choices like quitting smoking or losing weight.”



“The panel Alexander is expected to lead — the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee — has the widest jurisdictional reach of any committee in Congress. As a result, Alexander will play a pivotal role on everything from the GOP's campaign to dismantle President Barack Obama's health-care reforms to reigning in the National Labor Relations Board to returning more education decisions to the states.”

## THE TENNESSEAN

"Sen. Alexander, however, is a seasoned mainstream politician who is willing to work on big, bipartisan ideas. In the next session of Congress, he should prove to be a problem-solver in what will be an otherwise polarized Senate."

## THE TENNESSEAN

“If Republicans retake the Senate, Tennessee Sen. Lamar Alexander would be in line for another key committee post as well — chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

“The subcommittee has jurisdiction over more than \$2 billion in funding for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory annually, as well as issues affecting the Chickamauga Lock.”

## THE DAILY TIMES

“One of the most important factors is that anyone who has been active in Blount County in recent years has had the opportunity to know, visit and observe Lamar Alexander at work, from birth to the present. His legal residence remains in West Millers Cove, where he spends time when not in Washington, D.C., and he votes in Blount County every election.”

# AP



“Alexander, a pragmatic lawmaker, is no stranger to education policy. He served as education secretary under George H.W. Bush, as president of the University of Tennessee and as Tennessee governor.”

# **Action During 2014**

## **Ensuring Americans are Protected Against Ebola**

As lead Republican on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Alexander played a large role in ensuring the U.S. Government responded appropriately to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Alexander urged the Obama Administration to respond as seriously as they were to ISIL, and spent the fall learning about the outbreak and working with the Administration to help ensure the safety of the American people. In September 2014, he led a hearing, and then held three roundtables in Tennessee to better understand state, local, and hospital preparedness, and how the federal government could help ensure the U.S. is as prepared as possible to deal with any cases.

## **Fighting Against Obamacare**

Alexander continued to steer the effort to repeal and replace the president's health care law by championing steps that Republicans would pursue instead of the "historic mistake" that is Obamacare. He also called upon states for their ideas that will provide Americans with meaningful relief and introduced legislation to protect small business employees from premium hikes or job losses because of the law.

## **Highlighting Prescription Drug Abuse**

Alexander led a Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee working group to examine the characteristics and challenges of prescription drug abuse. The working group heard from federal agencies, state governments, public health groups, doctors, law enforcement, and others about what is being done to address prescription drug abuse, what federal barriers exist, and how Congress can help. Alexander and other committee members sent multiple letters to doctors, governors, public health groups, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services summarizing what was learned and requesting information moving forward. Alexander also wrote the Food and Drug Administration to ensure that it took into account the risk of abuse when approving new opioid therapies.

## **Promoting Electronic Health Records**

As Ranking Member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and a member of the informal Senate "Reboot" group, Senator Alexander has been working to improve the Electronic Health Record Meaningful Use program mandated by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. Alexander has focused on achieving the promise of electronic health records to lower the cost of health care while improving the quality.

Alexander convened a bipartisan staff working group with former Chairman Harkin and the Senate Finance Committee in August and September of 2014 to study why Stage 2 of the Meaningful Use program has not adequately buoyed health care providers to freely exchange patient information and ultimately help better coordinate care. After hearing from 20 organizations—including vendors, physicians, hospitals, trade associations, thought leaders, and staff from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology—the committees’ working group presented bipartisan recommendations to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) for the Stage 3 Meaningful Use rule.

### **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 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.

### **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.

### **Standing up for Tennessee’s Songwriters**

Senator Alexander led efforts to remove government restrictions to ensure songwriters receive compensation based on the fair market value of their songs. In May, he joined Senators Orrin Hatch and Bob Corker at the Bluebird Cafe in

Nashville to introduce the Songwriter Equity Act. The senators were joined by Roxie Dean, Lee Thomas Miller, Tom Douglas and Rivers Rutherford, who performed some of their signature songs and discussed the importance of removing outdated and harmful government restrictions.

Songwriter compensation is dictated by the federal government and has increased only 7 cents over 100 years, and is currently 9.1 cents per song. The Songwriter Equity Act would direct the federal government to set compensation according to the fair market value when songs are sold, such as through music downloads and CD purchases, replacing the current below-market standard.

Senator Alexander also cosponsored bipartisan legislation that would reinstate and make permanent a tax provision allowing music publishers that purchase a songwriter's catalog to allow their expenses to be amortized over 5 years.

### **Defending Free Speech**

Senator Alexander pushed back against proposed Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations to define "candidate-related political activity" that could have limited every Tennessean's free speech.

Alexander was a lead cosponsor of the Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act, which would delay IRS rulemaking to define "candidate-related political activity" of tax-exempt "social welfare organizations." It would also require the IRS to follow standards and regulations that were in effect prior to the agency's targeting of conservative groups during the 2012 election.

After receiving more than 150,000 written comments—the most comments ever received by the Treasury Department and the IRS on a proposed regulation—IRS announced the agency would reconsider the proposed regulations.

In September 2013, Senator Alexander introduced the IRS Abuse Protection Act that would require the federal government to notify taxpayers whenever the IRS has accessed their tax returns or other tax information. The notice would have specified who accessed the information, the purpose of doing so, and how the information was accessed.

### **Preserving Peace in Our Skies**

In December 2013, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) began considering changing rules that could allow the use of mobile devices for in-flight phone calls on commercial aircraft.

Senator Alexander joined Senator Dianne Feinstein to introduce the Commercial Flight Courtesy Act, which would prohibit the use of voice communication through cell phones on regularly scheduled commercial flights. The bill would allow the use of cell phones for texting and other electronic communication and would still allow the use of personal electronic devices such as Kindles and iPads during flight.

Two months later, the Department of Transportation announced an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) seeking comments on a possible ban of in-flight phone calls on commercial aircraft.

In March, 2014, the senators also sent a letter to Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx expressing support for a prohibition on the use of cell phones for phone calls on commercial aircraft.

Senator Alexander successfully included language in the fiscal year 2015 Transportation Housing And Urban Development Appropriations bill that directed the Department of Transportation to quickly complete a rulemaking on the issue.

### **No Budget, No Pay**

Senator Alexander was an original cosponsor of legislation that would suspend pay to Members of Congress if it did not pass a budget and all spending bills by the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1.

### **State and Local Sales Tax Deduction**

Senator Alexander cosponsored legislation to make permanent the tax deduction for state and local sales tax payments. The deduction allows residents in states without a state income tax, such as Tennessee, to deduct their state and local sales tax payments from their federal income tax. The deduction levels the playing field for taxpayers in the nine states that do not have an individual income tax. In 2012, over 531,000 Tennessee tax filers claimed the tax deduction for state and local sales tax payments and reduced their taxable income by over \$1.1 billion. The tax deduction was first created in 2004 and has been temporarily extended five times. Senator Alexander supports making this tax deduction permanent to provide certainty for taxpayers and ensure they keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets. The provision was extended through 2014 by the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014.

### **Preserving World War II-Era Manhattan Project Historic Sites**

In 2014, Alexander introduced legislation to protect several Manhattan Project Sites, including areas of Oak Ridge, as a National Historic Park. These sites tell the story of “one of the most significant events in American history.” Alexander’s legislation was ultimately passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act and designated three sites of the World War II-era Manhattan Project as a National Historic Park. These sites are located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, Washington.

### **Modernizing Our Nation’s Inland Waterways System**

Senator Alexander supported a change in law that will put more money into the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to fund projects around the country, including the replacement of Chickamauga Lock.

The change included a 9-cent increase in the user fee commercial barge owners pay to use U.S. river locks and navigation channels, which the barge owners themselves requested. This fee increase would provide about \$260 million more for inland waterways projects across the country over the next 10 years, allowing reconstruction of Chickamauga Lock to begin sooner than the Corps planned. The fee increase does not affect recreational boaters who will continue to have free passage through the locks.

# Legislation

Cosponsored 18 pieces of legislation that became law:

- **Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-186)** – A law to give states more flexibility in developing child care programs and policies that best suit the needs of children and parents in their state. The law promotes parental choice to empower working parents and assists states in providing and improving high-quality childcare services to parents.
- **Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-98)** – A law to continue programs that provide pediatric residents (doctors in training) with support similar to that which other teaching hospitals receive through Medicare.
- **Poison Center Network Act (P.L. 113-77)** – A law to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number and support the center’s national media campaign and grant program.
- **Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-163)** – A law to reauthorize the Victims of Child Abuse Act, which provides funding for Children’s Advocacy Centers.
- **Sunscreen Innovation Act (P.L. 113-195)** – A law to require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to make a timely decision on the safety and effectiveness of active ingredients for nonprescription sunscreen.
- **Emergency Medical Service for Children Reauthorization Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-180)** – A law to improve emergency medical services for children through research and other efforts to integrate pediatrics into emergency medical services.
- **Adding Ebola to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act (P.L. 113-233)** – A law to add Ebola as a qualifying disease under the FDA priority review voucher program.
- **Improving Trauma Care Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-152)** – A bill to amend the federal definition of trauma to include burn injuries.

- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (P.L. 113-128)** - Legislation that updates and improves the nation’s workforce development system by simplifying the maze of programs, supporting state and local-decision making, and improving federal program accountability.
- **Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2013 ( P.L. 113-240)** –Legislation to improve life-saving screenings for nearly 80,000 infants born in Tennessee every year—as well as ensure that parents and doctors have the information they need to keep the newborns in their care as safe as possible.
- **A bill to amend the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (P.L. 113-235)** -Legislation to determine when a company needs to make greater pension payments to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation due to a cessation of operations.
- **Centennial Commemorative Coin for World War I American Veterans (P.L. 113-212).**
- **Congressional Gold Medal for the American Fighter Aces (P.L. 113-105).**
- **Congressional Gold Medal for the Monuments Men (P.L. 113-116).**
- **Congressional Gold Medal for World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol (P.L. 113-108).**
- **Congressional Gold Medal for the World War II members of the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders” for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo (P.L. 113-106).**
- **Congressional Gold Medal to the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers (P.L. 113-120).**
- **A bill to amend title 36, United States Codes, to improve the Federal charter for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (S. 2782).**

Was the principal sponsor (or author) of 10 other pieces of legislation, including:

- **Pat Summitt Congressional Gold Medal Act (S. 1910)** – A bill to arrange for the presentation of a congressional gold medal to Pat Summitt in recognition of her career in women's team sports and her courage in speaking out about her battle with Alzheimer's disease.
- **Scholarships for Kids Act (S. 1968)** – A bill to allow states to create scholarships out of existing federal funds to follow low-income children to any public or private school of their parents' choice.
- **Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act (S. 2178)** – A bill to roll back the National Labor Relation Board's (NLRB) ambush election rule.
- **Horse Protection Amendments Act of 2014 (S. 2193)** – A bill to provide increased protection for horses participating in shows, exhibitions, or sales and to preserve the Tennessee Walking Horse tradition.
- **Songwriter Equity Act of 2014 (S. 2321)** – A bill to allow songwriters to receive compensation based on the fair market value of their songs.
- **Certify It Act of 2014 (S. 2383)** – A bill to require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Actuary to work with the Government Accountability Office on annual studies to assess the impact Obamacare will have on small businesses.
- **Lawful Ivory Protection Act of 2014 (S. 2587)** – A bill to prohibit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from restricting interstate commerce of legal ivory and products containing legal ivory.
- **National Labor Relations Board Reform Act (S. 2814)** – A bill to end partisan advocacy, rein in the general counsel, and encourage timely decision-making at the NLRB.
- **A resolution honoring Harlan Mathews, former United States Senator for the State of Tennessee (S. Res. 444).**
- **A resolution designating June 20, 2014 as “American Eagle Day” and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States (S. Res. 477).**

Cosponsored more than 40 other pieces of legislation, including:

- **CHOICE Act (S. 1909)** – A bill to expand school choice options though expanded school opportunities for military families, changes to the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship, and to make Individuals with Disabilities Education Act funds portable.
- **Quadrennial Energy Review Act of 2014 (S. 1938)** – A bill to replace the current biennial policy plan with a Quadrennial Energy Review.
- **Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014 (S. 2011)** – A bill to delay for one year a proposed regulation by the IRS related to the tax exempt status of social welfare organizations.
- **Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014 (S. 2013)** – A bill to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs when performance of the individual warrants removal.
- **National Park Access Act (S. 2104)** – A bill to refund the states that opened their National Parks during the October 2013 federal government shutdown.
- **Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act (S. 2113)** – A bill to require every federal agency to produce an annual report card detailing costs and other information to help identify government waste.
- **ENFORCE the Law Act of 2014 (S. 2118)** – A bill to authorize Congress to bring a civil action against the president if he does not faithfully execute the laws of the United States.
- **Responsible Medicare SGR Repeal and Beneficiary Access Improvement Act of 2014 (S. 2112)** – A bill to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and improve Medicare and Medicaid payments.
- **Russian Aggression Prevention Act of 2014 (S. 2277)** – A bill to prevent further Russian aggression toward Ukraine and other sovereign states.
- **A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline (S. 2280).**

- **National Commission on the Future of the Army Act of 2014 (S. 2295)** – A bill to create an independent panel that would analyze the major changes to the U.S. Army that are proposed in the President’s annual budget.
- **Expanding Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act (S. 2304)** – A bill to make updates to the federal Charter Schools Program.
- **Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act of 2014 (S. 2363)** – A bill to expand access for hunting, fishing, and recreational activities as well as supports habitat conservation programs.
- **Coal Country Protection Act (S. 2414)** – A bill to require the government to prove that any restrictions on existing coal power plants would not eliminate jobs, raise utility bills, or reduce electricity reliability.
- **Veterans Choice Act of 2014 (S. 2424)** – A bill to allow veterans to choose a private doctor or facility for their federally provided medical care under certain circumstances.
- **Protecting Water and Property Rights Act of 2014 (S. 2496)** – A bill to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing a proposed rule that would expand federal authority to regulate private and state waters.
- **Marketplace and Internet Tax Fairness Act (S. 2609)** – A bill to prohibit taxes on internet access and allow states and local government to enforce existing state and local sales taxes on the sale of goods over the internet.
- **Helping Unaccompanied Minors and Alleviating National Emergency Act (S. 2611)** – A bill to facilitate the expedited processing of unaccompanied minors entering the United States.
- **Davis-Bacon Repeal Act (S. 2617)** – A bill to repeal the wage requirement of the Davis-Bacon Act.
- **Union Transparency and Accountability Act (S. 2688)** – A bill to increase transparency in labor unions by requiring certain financial disclosures and information on potential conflicts of interest.

- **Protecting Children and America's Homeland Act of 2014 (S. 2743)** – A bill to make supplemental appropriations for border security, law enforcement, and humanitarian assistance.
- **A bill to revise the Inland Waterways Trust Fund financing rate (S. 2955).**
- **A resolution designating October 30, 2014, as a national day of remembrance for nuclear weapons program workers (S. Res. 417).**
- **A resolution relative to the death of Howard H. Baker, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Tennessee (S. Res. 494).**
- **A resolution commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act (S. Res. 573).**

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 lead Republican on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, led aggressive oversight activities of the Obama administration:

- **Led Effort to Give Doctors and Hospitals Flexibility to Meet Health IT Requirements Without Penalties.**
  - On March 6, Alexander and Senators Thune, Burr, Enzi, Coburn, and Roberts sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) urging the administration to grant flexibility to thousands of doctors and hospitals facing penalties in a poorly planned electronic health records program established by the stimulus.
  - On May 20, CMS announced a proposed rule to provide the requested flexibility, which was finalized in September.
  
- **Led Effort to Ensure the National Labor Relations Board Adopted Inspector General Recommendations to Prevent Improper Communications.**
  - On March 25, Alexander and Senator Scott (R-S.C.) sent a letter to National Labor Relations Board Chairman Mark Pearce to ask why the board had not fully adopted the inspector general's recommendations to help ensure the board and the general counsel did not violate *ex parte* rules that prevent the board and the general counsel from discussing pending cases.
  - In response, the chairman, the general counsel, and the director of public affairs entered into a new memorandum of understanding, and new guidelines were issued to help prevent improper *ex parte* communications.
  
- **Led Effort to Question the Department of Labor about its Failure to Follow Regulatory Requirements Related to the Announcement the Overtime Rule.**
  - On April 8, Alexander and Senator Roberts (R-Kan.) sent a letter to Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez to ask why the department did not

- notify the public about its overtime rule in its regulatory agenda, as is required by law and Executive Order, and why the department had failed to publish its semiannual plan to retrospectively review regulations on time.
- In response, the department published its regulatory retrospective review plan.
- **Led Effort to Question the Department of Labor about a Failed Wage and Hour Lawsuit that Led to a \$500,000 Fee Award.**
- On June 3, Alexander and two other Republican senators sent a letter to Wage and Hour Division Administrator David Weil to raise concerns about whether wage and hour investigators are properly and fairly conducting their investigations after a court awarded a defendant over \$550,000 in attorney's and other fees for a failed wage and hour lawsuit.
  - As a result of the lawsuit, the department conducted training for investigators and agreed to consider additional steps to ensure accurate back wage calculations.
- **Led Effort to Question HHS About Reports That an Obamacare Contractor's Employees Were Being Paid to do Nothing.**
- On May 14, Alexander and Senator Blunt (R-Mo.) sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) asking a number of questions relating to the contractor's performance, including how CMS handled the allegations, whether contractor staffing levels were adjusted to meet actual demand, and whether CMS conducted oversight.
  - In response, CMS answered that it formally requested the contractor to conduct a compliance investigation of itself once allegations of employee misconduct arose, that staffing level adjustments were made based on workload and contract requirements, and that contractor performance was monitored through reports, meetings and site visits.
- **Led Effort to Stop Department of Labor Companionship Care Regulation.**
- On Oct. 1, Alexander, Senator Johanns (R-Neb.), and Congressman Tim Walberg (R-Mich.) led a bicameral effort urging the Department

of Labor (DOL) to suspend a rule that could dramatically increase costs of non-medical, in-home personal care services, many of which are administered through Medicaid or other state programs. The rule, which would make changes to a long-standing exemption for these personal care services was later struck down by a federal district court.

➤ **Led Submission of Comments to Oppose National Labor Relations Board Efforts to Impose Ambush Election Rule on Employers and Employees.**

- On April 7, Alexander led a group of senators in submitting comments opposing the National Labor Relations Board’s proposed rule to speed up workplace union elections that the senators said “poses significant harm to businesses and workers alike in the United States.”

➤ **Led an Amicus Brief on Behalf of Northwestern University in College Athlete Unionization Case.**

- On July 3, Alexander, Senator Burr (R-N.C.) and Senator Isakson (R-Ga.), along with Congressmen Kline (R-Minn.), Roe (R-Tenn.), and Foxx (R-N.C.), filed an amicus brief on behalf of Northwestern University on case before the National Labor Relations Board regarding the unionization of college athletes (*Northwestern University v. College Athletes Players Association*).
- They make two key arguments in the amicus brief: 1) College athletes are not employees under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and 2) Treating college athletes as employees under the NLRA is unworkable.

Was principal author or co-author of two oversight reports:

- **EEOC: An Agency on the Wrong Track? Litigation Failures, Misfocused Priorities, and Lack of Transparency Raise Concerns about Important Anti-Discrimination Agency** – A report outlining missteps at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, including high-profile court losses, fee awards to defendants, the pursuit of investigations without a complaint, and the failure to fully involve the public in its issuance of guidance.

- **The Facts Speak for Themselves: Claims, Promises and the Reality of the President's Health Care Law** – A report contrasting eight major claims made about the president's health care law with the reality. The report details the truth about the administration's claims related to the health care law's affordability and impact on the economy.

Was the lead author of nine additional oversight letters:

- **Cost-effective Generic Drugs** – Two letters to Food and Drug Administration and the Office of Management and Budget questioning a proposed rule that would impose potentially \$1.5 billion in additional drug costs to Medicare and Medicaid.
- **HealthCare.gov Security** – Letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) seeking documents and information regarding consumer privacy protections on HealthCare.gov. The letter was sent following a Government Accountability Office report finding that CMS mismanagement created security vulnerabilities on the website and a hacking incident in which malicious software went undetected on the system for two months.
- **Lab Safety** – Letter to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding mishandling of anthrax samples that inadvertently exposed 75 CDC staff members to the deadly bacterium and a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services about three separate incidents in which highly deadly pathogens were mishandled.
- **Department of Labor Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act** – Letter to Government Accountability Office (GAO) requesting an analysis of how the Department of Labor manages, processes, and prioritizes Freedom of Information Act requests and how often it is sued for non-compliance. GAO accepted the request and is performing its analysis.
- **Department of Education No Child Left Behind Waivers** – Letter to Government Accountability Office (GAO) requesting an analysis of how the Department of Education determines whether to grant waivers from No Child Left Behind requirements and whether states face obstacles in applying for, or obtaining, waivers. GAO accepted the request and is performing its analysis.

- **Health IT** – Two letters to the Government Accountability Office requesting an analysis of efforts to achieve a nationwide health information exchange and an examination of the use of electronic health records in the post-acute care setting.

Co-signed other significant letters, including:

- **HealthCare.gov Errors** – Letter to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to resolve errors in people’s applications that caused them to pay more for insurance or, in some cases, even go without it.
- **Department of Labor’s Whistleblower Protection Program** – Letter to Assistant Secretary of Labor David Michaels to inquire about the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) efforts to implement Government Accountability Office and Inspector General recommendations related to its whistleblower program, and in particular, the status of regional audits. OSHA informed the signers that the audits are underway.

# Energy & Water Appropriations

- In 2014, Senator Alexander served as the Senate's top Republican on energy and water appropriations. The Energy and Water Appropriations subcommittee is responsible for providing funding for the Department of Energy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and several other independent agencies, including the Appalachian Regional Commission.
- In December, he led the effort to pass legislation to fund the federal government that "helps keep spending in check while supporting two projects that are crucial to Tennessee," a proposal to build the world's fastest supercomputer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Uranium Processing Facility at Y-12.
- Having the world's fastest supercomputer in the United States – and once again having it in Oak Ridge – will help Tennessee remain a center for advanced manufacturing and scientific breakthroughs. One hundred and four million dollars were provided to support supercomputing, following a November announcement by Alexander and U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz that Oak Ridge would build a supercomputer five times the speed of Titan, its current machine.
- Providing both funding and oversight of the Uranium Processing Facility supports jobs and national security, and helps to ensure this project will be completed on time and on budget. Three hundred and thirty five million dollars were provided for the Uranium Processing Facility, which processes enriched uranium for nuclear weapons systems. Alexander has pushed to keep costs under control, in part through the Red Team review led by Oak Ridge National Laboratory director Thom Mason.
- Alexander also led the effort to set priorities and cut spending. The closure of two facilities that were found to be redundant or could be accomplished more cost effectively elsewhere, were eliminated saving taxpayers \$120 million over the next ten years. The first was the New Brunswick lab in New Jersey, which does work on radiation that can be done in various other parts of the federal government. The second is the closure of the Lujan Center in New Mexico, which performs scientific research that can be done at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

# Awards & Recognition

For defending free enterprise:

- **“Guardian Award”** – From the National Federation of Independent Business for standing up for small business.
- **“King of the Hill” award** – From the National Franchise Association for supporting small business.

In addition, Alexander received:

- **“AOA Health Care Leadership Award”** – From the American Optometric Association for helping ensure patient access to optometrists.
- **“Congressional Partnership Award”** – From the Tennessee Development District Association for supporting regional development programs.

# Major Addresses

- [Remarks to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners](#) – **Feb. 11 speech, Washington, D.C.** – “When you compare our country’s energy needs with the example of Germany, you can see that we are at a fork in the road on our national energy policy. Which path we take will help determine how well the United States competes in a 21st-century economy. The surest path toward cheap, clean, reliable energy is to end Washington’s obsession with wasteful energy subsidies and to instead rely on free enterprise and government-sponsored research.”
- [“Republican Enablers vs. Democrat Mandators”](#) – **April 19, Weekly Republican Address** – “Republicans want to enable and empower you. We want to be the iPhone party. We believe government ought to be a platform that gives you more opportunity and freedom to create a happier, more prosperous and safer life. Usually in Washington, Republicans are the enablers and Democrats are the mandators.”
- [“Howard Baker, Jr.: Tennessee’s Favorite Son and One of Our Country’s Finest Leaders”](#) – **July 1, eulogy of Senator Howard Baker (1925-2014) in Huntsville, Tenn.** – Howard Baker knew how to make the Senate work. He understood that the Senate’s unique role is as a place for extended debate and amendment on important issues until there is a consensus. That is how he fixed Social Security with Tip O’Neill and Ronald Reagan, how he passed the Reagan tax cuts and the Clean Air and Water laws. ... How fortunate we were to know, to be inspired by, and to learn from Tennessee’s favorite son and one of our country’s finest leaders, Howard Baker.”

# Op-eds

- **[“This Is the End of the Senate. It’s Harry Reid’s Fault”](#)** – **Op-Ed in *Politico Magazine*** – “The United States Senate is starting the New Year the same way it ended the last one: with the Democratic leader bringing up legislation that hasn’t been considered by committee, then threatening to cut off amendments, cut off debate and cut off votes. The Senate does not need a change of rules; it needs a change of behavior. Senator Reid could start by following the example of Majority Leaders Byrd and Howard Baker, a Republican, during the 1970s and ‘80s... The Senate has become a one-man show, orchestrated by the White House.”
- **[“U.S. Senate dissolving into one-man show”](#)** – **Op-Ed in the *Tennessean*** – “Tennesseans didn’t send me to Washington to rubber-stamp Harry Reid’s ideas or those of any other Senate leader. They expect me to have a say for them on ‘Obamacare,’ fixing the debt, Iran and other vital issues.”
- **[“11 Million \\$2,100 'Scholarships for Kids': A Real Answer to Inequality”](#)** – **Op-Ed in the *National Review*** – “On the same day that the president discussed income inequality during his State of the Union address, I introduced legislation that would allow \$2,100 federal scholarships to follow 11 million low-income children to any public or private accredited school of their parents’ choice. This is a real answer to inequality in America: giving more children more opportunity to attend a better school... Equal opportunity in America should mean that everyone has the same starting line. Allowing states to use federal dollars to create 11 million new opportunities to choose a better school would help children move up from the back of the line.”
- **[“Obama’s unfair union-election tilt”](#)** – **Op-Ed in the *Washington Times* with Reps. John Kline and Phil Roe** – “The latest is a rule proposed by the National Labor Relations Board to speed up union elections, reduce the time workers have to decide whether or not to join a labor union, and force employers to hand over to union organizers their employees' private information... Congress must take action. On Thursday, we introduced legislation that will prohibit this administration from rigging union elections and ensure workers get adequate time to hear from both sides and make a decision, while maintaining control over their personal information... The federal labor board ought to be an umpire rather than a biased advocate. Today's board fails that test, as President Obama has appointed union

advocates to serve in the roles of adjudicators. In the face of this board's union advocacy, Congress needs to stand up for fairness to workers and employers.”

- [“What to do about Tax Day”](#) – **Op-Ed in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*** – “Our federal government's largest problem is its \$17 trillion debt, \$55,000 for every Tennessean. But we can fix the debt and solve other problems by making tough decisions now and getting Washington out of the way... I've proposed two pieces of legislation to help stop IRS overreach. I've introduced in the Senate legislation by U.S. Rep. Stephen Fincher, R-Tenn., that would require the federal government to notify you when the IRS has accessed your tax information. My second proposal would delay proposed IRS regulations that could limit free speech. Our country has serious problems to solve. Hopefully by Tax Day 2015 we can fix them -- and bring a little more Tennessee common sense to Washington.”
- [Wind-Power Tax Credits Need to Be Blown Away](#) – **Op-Ed in the *Wall Street Journal*** – “The U.S. Senate is poised to resurrect Washington's most conspicuous, wasteful taxpayer subsidy—the wind-production tax credit... The wind-production tax credit should not be renewed for three principal reasons: 1) It wastes money. The proposed two-year extension would cost taxpayers nearly \$13 billion over the next 10 years, according to the Joint Congressional Committee on Taxation... A better use of taxpayer dollars would be to reduce the ballooning federal debt or to invest in research to find new forms of cheap, clean, reliable electricity. 2) The wind subsidy undercuts reliable "baseload" electricity such as nuclear and coal. 3) Wind-power subsidies destroy the environment in the name of saving the environment... After nearly 22 years, eight resurrections and billions of taxpayer subsidies, it's time to let the marketplace rule and allow wind power to rise or fall on its own. Save our money, save our nuclear plants and save our mountaintops.”
- [An Answer on a Postcard](#) – **Op-Ed in *The New York Times* with Sen. Michael Bennet** – “To give millions of hours back to American families, to remove what stands in the way of some students’ going to college and to save dollars that could be better spent on instruction, we are proposing legislation to reduce the federal financial aid application to a form the size of a postcard... At a time when a college degree is more important than ever for getting a job and making a good living, red tape and confusion are the adversary for millions of students. Adopting a two-question postcard for

federal student aid is a sure step toward offering millions of Americans a brighter future.”

- **[U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander: Baker exemplified leadership, courage](#)** – **Op-Ed in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*** – “Howard was an eloquent listener. In 2011 he said, ‘There is a difference between hearing and understanding what people say. You don't have to agree, but you have to hear what they've got to say. And if you do, the chances are much better you'll be able to translate that into a useful position and even useful leadership.’ ... Occasionally, a young person will ask me, ‘How can I become involved in politics?’ My answer always is, ‘Find someone you respect, volunteer to help him or her do anything legal and learn all you can from them. That's what I did.’ How fortunate we were to know, be inspired by and learn from Tennessee's favorite son and one of our country's finest leaders, Howard Baker.”
- **[Repeal Davis-Bacon](#)** – **Op-Ed in the *National Review Online*** – “This month, I joined Senator Mike Lee of Utah in calling for repeal of a law governing federal construction projects that is giving unions the upper hand and costing taxpayers billions... First, Davis-Bacon robs unskilled workers of a fair shot at getting hired, instead tilting the scales in favor of big labor unions. Second, in addition to harming non-unionized workers, the Davis-Bacon Act sends an annual bill to taxpayers to the tune of \$8.6 billion, according to a 2008 Suffolk University study... There is overwhelming evidence to support eliminating this law, and I hope our colleagues will join us in calling for its repeal. Let's move away from bureaucracy and union favoritism and toward fairness for American construction workers and taxpayers alike.”
- **[Obamacare: A Conservative Alternative](#)** – **Op-Ed in *Politico Magazine*** – “Obamacare is so flawed that it cannot be fixed. Instead of tinkering at the edges of this historic mistake, we need to move as rapidly and responsibly as we can in an entirely different direction. We need to transform our health-care delivery system into one that emphasizes freedom and choice and lower costs.”

For more information about Senator Alexander, please visit his website:

<http://alexander.senate.gov>