

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander

Accomplishments 2017



In January 2017, President Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States, and a Republican majority got to work in the 115th session of Congress.

Alexander, serving as the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, led the way, at President Trump's request, to develop bipartisan legislation to lower health insurance premiums for 9 million Americans and passed legislation that was signed by the president into law to make sure the Food & Drug Administration could get drugs and medical devices into medicine cabinets faster.

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Getting Results for Tennesseans in 2017



The Republican majority delivered real results for the American people in 2017 – the first major reform of our nation’s tax code in 31 years, confirmed Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, cut red tape and got more decisions out of Washington and back to Tennessee

Here are some of the most important results achieved in 2017:

- **Passed the first major tax reform in 31 years** – which for most Tennesseans means lower taxes, bigger paychecks and more jobs. The new law:
 - Nearly doubled the standard deduction – which means twice as much of your income is not taxed at all
 - Doubled the child tax credit, which means parents can receive a tax credit worth up to \$2,000 per child
 - Lowered the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% to make us competitive with the rest of the world and help create more good jobs here at home

- **Confirmed Neil Gorsuch** to the U.S. Supreme Court, and a record number of President Trump’s federal Circuit Court judicial nominees were confirmed during his first year in office

- **Repealed Obamacare’s Individual Mandate Tax Penalty** – which has been a particularly cruel tax to lower-income Tennesseans—most of the people in our state who pay the individual mandate penalty make less than \$50,000 a year
- Helped Veterans by continuing to fund the **VA Choice Program** which helps veterans see private doctors if they don’t live near a VA medical facility
- Historic **Regulatory Relief**
 - 15 Congressional Review Act resolutions approved by Congress that overturned burdensome Federal regulations which will save Americans \$36 billion in regulatory costs
 - Overturned the Obama administration’s final regulation implementing accountability provisions in the **Every Student Succeeds Act** – which preserves local control of Tennessee schools
 - Overturned the Obama Administration’s final regulation, the so-called “**blacklisting**” rule, that could have prevented companies from receiving a federal contract for an alleged labor violation before any wrongdoing had been proven
 - The Trump administration has withdrawn or reconsidered more than 860 ineffective, duplicative, and obsolete regulations – reducing the administrative burden on small business and other job creators to help grow our economy and create more good jobs
- Passed legislation to sanction Iran, Russia and North Korea, the **Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act**, which was signed into law by President Trump
- Restored **National Labor Relations Board** to Role of Umpire, not Advocate
- The Trump Administration is re-evaluating the Obama administration’s “**Waters of the U.S.**” regulation that would have regulated farmer’s mud puddles under the Clean Water Act, and the so-called “**Clean Power Plan**” that would have ignored nuclear power – 60 percent of our country’s clean power

Some highlights from 2017 that Senator Alexander focused on:

- The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held four bipartisan hearings and member coffees on stabilizing the individual health insurance market that over half of the Senate participated in and resulted in the **Alexander-Murray** agreement to help keep insurance premiums down and the federal debt from skyrocketing and return power over insurance markets to states



- Reauthorized and updated the **Food and Drug Administration's** (FDA) user fee agreements to speed the delivery of safe and effective cures and treatments to Tennessee patients
- The Trump Administration announced the release of the first round of state grants to fight the **opioid crisis** provided under the 21st Century Cures Act – legislation Alexander was the lead Senate sponsor of – to all 50 states, including \$14 million to Tennessee
- Joined Republican senators in urging President Trump to continue to support the **Department of Energy's research** programs. Government-sponsored research is one of the most important investments our country can make to encourage innovation, unleash our free enterprise system to create good-paying jobs, and ensure American competitiveness in a global economy

- Marvin Kaplan and William Emanuel, President's Trump's nominees to serve on the **National Labor Relations Board**, were confirmed which restored the National Labor Relations Board to its traditional of role of umpire – not advocate – in deciding labor relations cases
- The National Labor Relations Board recently reversed the Obama administration-era '**joint-employer**' standard, which was the biggest attack on the opportunity for small businessmen and women to make their way into the middle class that anyone has seen in a long time—threatening to destroy the American Dream for owners of the nation's 780,000 franchise locations
- The Education Department approved 16 new state plans, including Tennessee's state plan submitted under the **Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA), legislation Alexander was the lead Senate sponsor of, which ended the Common Core mandate and restored responsibility back to state and local education officials for accountability in our nation's schools
- Alex Acosta, President Trump's nominee to serve as **Secretary of Labor**, was confirmed and is already working to undo harmful actions from the Obama labor department, including rolling back Wage and House guidance that was an assault on the franchise model and restoring the focus to worker protections
- Passed a Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval to **overturn** the **Obama administration's final regulation** implementing accountability provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – preserving local control of Tennessee schools and affirming that Congress, not the Education Department, writes the laws
- **Year-round Pell grants** funded to help nearly 1 million students – including roughly 20,000 students in Tennessee – take the opportunity to graduate sooner and with less debt
- Approved the nomination of **Dr. Scott Gottlieb** to serve as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), where he has hit the ground running implementing the 21st Century Cures Act

- Included two pieces of bipartisan legislation, the Energy Title of **America COMPETES Reauthorization Act** and the **ExaSCALE Computing Leadership Act**, which Alexander authored, in the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017 (S.1460). The legislation reauthorizes key **basic energy research programs** created by the America COMPETES Act and jumpstarts **exascale computing research** which is essential to U.S. national security
- President Trump signed legislation worked on by Alexander and Senator Burr (R-N.C.) to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act Conference Report to give FDA the tools to get safe and effective medicines, such as freeze dried plasma, more rapidly to **warfighters on the battlefield**
- The Senate passed three public health bills that will work to support states in screening and linking to follow-up care for infants with **hearing loss**; improve federal programs to **prevent diabetes** and other diseases; and improve public health preparedness to **combat the Zika virus**
- Continued to focus on federal **mental health programs**, by making sure the reforms to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) that were passed as part of the 21st Century Cures Act are being implemented. Alexander held an oversight hearing to make sure Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, the first Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, has new authorities to work with states and federal agencies and to help more Americans receive the treatment they need
- Supported a proposal by Senator James Lankford (R-OK) to make the Senate function and **confirm President Trump's nominees faster** by reinstating a bipartisan Standing Order regarding the consideration of presidential nominations that the Senate used during the Obama administration
- Confirmed 4 new members of the **Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors**, who will ensure that TVA continues to provide cheap, clean, reliable electricity for homes and businesses throughout the seven-state Tennessee Valley region

Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee



13 Bills Signed into Law
32 Hearings
32 Nominations Approved – 22 Confirmed

“In 2017, our committee took the lead on laws to help improve the lives of virtually every American—including legislation to ensure that safe drugs and medical devices can get into patients’ medicine cabinets more quickly, as well as legislation to preserve local control of our 100,000 public schools.

“At the same time, the committee approved 32 of the president’s nominees so they can get to work helping deliver results for Americans. Senator Ted Kennedy, who served for many years as the HELP Committee chairman, once said that the committee had 30 percent of the legislative jurisdiction of the Senate—which says to me that we have a significant opportunity to get results on issues that matter to American families.” *Senator Lamar Alexander*

Legislation to improve the health of American families:

- **FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 -- Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.) (S.934):** This reauthorization of the four Food and Drug Administration (FDA) user fee agreements will ensure the FDA has the funding it needs to quickly and safely bring new drugs and treatments to patients and make sure the promising research supported by the 21st Century Cures Act actually reaches patients
- **National Clinical Care Commission Act -- Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) (S.920):** This law creates a commission of leading experts to study complex metabolic or autoimmune diseases, like diabetes. The commission will recommend improvements to federal programs that work to help prevent diseases like diabetes or educate patients on their condition
- **The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act -- Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Tim Kaine (D-Va.) (S.652):** If you're a parent with a newborn, infant, or young child, this law supports state-based efforts to screen them for hearing loss and ensure proper follow-up care, including diagnosis and early intervention
- **Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017 -- Rep. Richard Hudson (R-N.C.) and Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) (H.R.304):** If someone is the victim of a life-threatening emergency, like a burn victim or a child experiencing a seizure, this law ensures that he or she will continue to have access to time-sensitive and life-saving treatments under the supervision of a physician
- **Authorizing Emergency Uses for Military -- Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.) (H.R.4374):** This law gives the FDA the tools to get safe and effective medicines, such as freeze-dried blood plasma, more rapidly to warfighters on the battlefield
- **Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the Title X rule regarding family planning grants -- Rep. Diane Black (R-Tenn.) (H.J.Res.43):** This resolution reverses an Obama-era regulation to give states and local governments more flexibility over family planning grants

Legislation to roll back Obama-era laws that hurt American workers:

- **Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the “Volks” rule regarding employer record-keeping -- Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-Ala.) (H.J.Res.83) Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) (S.J. Res 67):** This resolution blocks an Obama-era rule that contradicted congressional intent and punished paperwork errors rather than enhance worker health and safety
- **Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule exempting state-run retirement programs for private sector workers from federal retirement law -- Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Mich.) (H.J.Res.66)/ Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) (S.J. Res 32):** This resolution overturning an Obama-era regulation means private sector workers in retirement plans operated by state governments will continue to have protections under federal retirement law
- **Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule exempting locality-run retirement programs for private sector workers from federal retirement law -- Rep. Francis Rooney (R- Fla.) (H.J.Res.67)/ Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) (S.J. Res 33):** This resolution overturning an Obama-era regulation means private sector workers in retirement plans operated by local governments will continue to have protections under federal retirement law
- **Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the “Blacklisting” rule regarding federal procurement -- Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) (H.J.Res.37)/ Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wisc.) (S.J. Res 12):** This resolution blocks implementation of an Obama-era regulation that could have prevented companies from receiving a federal contract for an alleged labor violation before any wrongdoing had been proven

Legislation to preserve the Every Student Succeeds Act, which restored local control of schools and assist college students impacted by this fall's hurricanes:

- **Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the “Accountability” rule for K-12 education -- Rep. Todd Rokita (R-Ind.) (H.J.Res.57) / Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) (S.J. Res 25):** In 2015, this committee wrote and Congress passed the law fixing No Child Left Behind to

reverse the trend towards a National School Board and restore decisions to teachers, school boards, and states. This resolution overturned the Obama administration's overreaching regulation implementing accountability provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – an affirmation that Congress, not the Education Department, writes the laws

- **Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the “Teacher Preparation” rule for K-12 education -- Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.) / Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) (S.J. Res 26): (H.J.Res. 58):** This resolution blocked an Obama-era regulation that would have forced teacher evaluations on states, something Congress specifically prohibited in ESSA
- **Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Education Relief Act of 2017 -- Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) (S. 1866):** For college students impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, this law will ensure they have access to federal financial aid

Legislation to improve public health preparedness to combat Zika:

- **The Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) Act -- Sens. Angus King (I- Maine), Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) (S.849):** This bill would improve public health preparedness capabilities to help combat the Zika virus and other mosquito-borne diseases that threaten public health by reauthorizing and strengthening programs that support state and local mosquito surveillance, control efforts, and response activities to protect against infectious diseases like the Zika virus

Legislation to help inform doctors about patients dealing with opioid addiction:

- **Jessie's Law -- Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) (S. 581):** This bill would make it easier for doctors to see if a patient has had a history of opioid use disorder by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to develop best practices for prominently displaying this information in their electronic records when requested by the patient

The committee also reported out the RAISE Family Caregivers Act (S. 1028), sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), which would create a National Family Caregiving Strategy to assist those providing care to family members

The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held 32 hearings to address important issues that matter to American families



Looking at ways to help Americans lead healthier lives, including examining the opioid crisis ravaging our communities and the price Americans pay when picking up their prescriptions

The Federal Response to the Opioid Crisis: The committee began a series of hearings on the opioid crisis, starting by hearing what the federal government is doing from administration witnesses. **Alexander said the crisis is “tearing our communities apart, tearing families apart, and posing an enormous challenge to health care providers and law enforcement officials.”**

The Front Lines of the Opioid Crisis: Perspectives from States, Communities, and Providers: The committee held a second hearing on the opioid crisis **to hear from those on the front lines how the tools and resources Congress provided when it passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act in 2016 are helping states fight the crisis.** Alexander said that, “We must ensure the federal government is the best possible partner for states on the front lines of the opioid crisis ravaging our country.”

The Cost of Prescription Drugs: How the Drug Delivery System Affects What Patients Pay: The committee held the first in a series of bipartisan hearings looking at the price Americans pay when they pick up their prescriptions and where that money goes. Alexander said, **“This is a discussion that affects the well-being of every American family.** It is important that we work together to conduct this fact finding in a bipartisan way.”

The Cost of Prescription Drugs: How the Drug Delivery System Affects What Patients Pay, Part II:

The committee held the second in a series of bipartisan hearings on what goes into the prices Americans pay when picking up the 4.4 billion prescriptions written every year. At the hearing, Alexander said the focus is to learn the facts on the drug delivery system and its effects on health care costs

The Cost of Prescription Drugs: An Examination of The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Report “Making Medicines

Affordable: A National Imperative”: At the third bipartisan hearing on drug pricing, **Alexander told the story of Joseph, a West Tennessean whose family struggled to afford a \$150 prescription.** The committee met to examine a National Academies report on the price Americans pay for their prescription drugs

Examining How Healthy Choices Can Improve Health Outcomes and Reduce Costs:

The committee held the first in a series of hearings looking at the **“remarkable consensus that a healthy lifestyle leads to longer and better lives, and reduces the nation’s health care costs.”** At the hearing, Alexander said, “If we really want to focus on improving Americans’ health, why not connect the consensus on wellness to the insurance policies that 178 million Americans get from their job.”

Encouraging Healthy Communities: Perspective from the Surgeon General:

Trump Administration Surgeon General Jerome Adams testified at the committee’s second hearing looking at how to encourage healthier behaviors as a way to lower health care costs. Alexander said that Dr. Adams’ focus on wellness could have a real impact on the lives of millions of Americans, saying “it makes sense for that to be his focus, because there is a remarkable consensus that wellness – lifestyle changes like eating healthier and quitting smoking – can prevent serious illness and reduce health care costs.”

Ensuring promising biomedical research leads to results for patients

Implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act: Achieving the Promise of Health Information Technology:

At the first oversight hearing on the 21st Century Cures Act – a law the committee wrote in 2016 to bring new drugs and devices more quickly to patients – Alexander said, **“Electronic health records are a critical piece to the future of medical innovation** and the success of the 21st Century Cures Act, and I intend to ensure these provisions are implemented properly.”

Implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act: Progress and the Path Forward for Medical Innovation:

At the second oversight hearing held on the first anniversary of the Cures' Senate passage with Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb and Director of the National Institutes of Health Francis Collins, Alexander said, **"It is not an overstatement to say that the 21st Century Cures Act has the potential to affect virtually every American family by taking advantage of breathtaking advances in biomedical research."**

Implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act: Responding to Mental Health Needs:

The committee's third oversight hearing on the 21st Century Cures Act examined the mental health provisions, **which updated federal mental health programs for the first time in a decade.** Alexander said that early intervention for patients with mental health disorders is critical: "Prior to our work on Cures, the coordination between federal agencies that provide mental health care was not as effective as it could have been... I look forward to hearing about the progress being made to ensure more people can receive the help they need."

FDA User Fee Agreements: Improving Medical Product Regulation and Innovation for Patients, Part I:

The committee held its first hearing on updating the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) user fee agreements that **pay a quarter of all FDA's work to ensure promising new drugs and devices reach patients.** Alexander said Congress owes patients and their families a prompt, bipartisan reauthorization of the FDA medical devices and drug user fee agreements

FDA User Fee Agreements: Improving Medical Product Regulation and Innovation for Patients, Part II:

At the second of two hearings on updating the Food and Drug Administration's user fee agreements, Alexander said a timely reauthorization is "integral to helping patients and delivering on the promise of 21st Century Cures."

Gene Editing Technology: Innovation and Impact:

The committee held a hearing on gene editing technology, including CRISPR-cas9, which Alexander said "has the potential to transform human health, when used properly.... CRISPR's use in humans is more recent, but **the possibility of the diseases it could treat and the lives that could be improved is remarkable.**"

Hearing from governors, state insurance commissioners, and health policy experts on how to stabilize the individual health insurance market



Obamacare Emergency: Stabilizing the Individual Health Insurance Market:

Alexander chaired the committee's first hearing of the year on the individual health insurance market where 18 million Americans and 350,000 Tennesseans purchase their insurance and invited Tennessee's state insurance commissioner, Julie McPeak, to testify. Alexander said, "Without quick action, many of these 18 million Americans may have zero choices for insurance next year."

Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: State Insurance Commissioners:

Alexander launched a series of hearings this fall on stabilizing the individual health insurance market and helping 18 million Americans be able to access and afford health insurance in 2018. At the first hearing, the committee heard from state insurance commissioners, including Julie McPeak

Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: Governors:

At the second hearing on stabilizing the individual health insurance market, the committee heard from governors, including Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, on steps Congress could take to make it easier for states to reclaim control of their insurance markets and limit premium increases in 2018

Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: State Flexibility: At the third hearing on stabilizing the individual health insurance market, the committee heard from state flexibility experts on ways to allow states to offer more flexible insurance plans. **Alexander said waivers from Obamacare regulations could offer states as many options as a Dr. Seuss book titled “Oh, The Place You’ll Go.”**

Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: Health Care Stakeholders: At the fourth hearing on stabilizing the individual health insurance market, **Alexander said, “It’s clear to truly protect patients, we need to stabilize the markets, limit premium increases, and begin to lower premiums in the future.”**

Confirmation hearings on President Trump’s nominees

Department of Education and Department of Labor Nominations: The committee met to consider two Department of Education nominees, Ken Marcus to serve as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights and Johnny Collett to serve as Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and two Department of Labor nominees, Scott Mugno to serve as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health and Dr. William Beach to serve as Commissioner of Labor Statistics

Nomination of Alex Azar to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services: The committee held a hearing for Alex Azar to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services. Alexander said that Azar’s “broad experience is a principal asset to leading the Department... you are ready to take advantage of the law Leader McConnell called, the ‘most important piece of legislation,’ the 21st Century Cures Act, which gave new, broad powers to FDA and NIH, and included the first major reorganization of mental health programs in a decade, as well as significant new funding for the opioid crisis.”

Department of Education and Department of Labor Nominees: The committee met to consider two Department of Education nominees, Brigadier General Mitchel Zais to serve as Deputy Secretary and James Blew to serve as Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, and two Department of Labor nominees, Kate O’Scannlain to serve as Solicitor and Preston Rutledge to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Employee Benefits Security Administration

Department of Labor and National Labor Relations Board Nominations: The committee met to consider two Department of Labor nominations and one National Labor Relations Board nomination: Cheryl Stanton to serve as the Wage and Hour Division Administrator; David Zatezalo to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health; and Peter Robb to serve as the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board

Department of Education and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Nominations: The committee met to consider two Equal Employment Opportunity Commission nominees, Janet Dhillon and Daniel Gade, and a Department of Education nominee, Carlos Muniz, the serve as General Counsel

Department of Health and Human Services Nominations: The committee met to consider five Department of Health and Human Services nominees, including: Lance Allen Robertson to serve as Assistant Secretary for Aging; Dr. Brett Giroir to serve as Assistant Secretary for Health; Dr. Robert Kadlec to serve as Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response; Dr. Elinore F. McCance-Katz to serve as Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use; and Dr. Jerome Adams to serve as Surgeon General of the Public Health Service

Department of Labor and Members of the National Labor Relations Board Nominations: The committee met to consider the nomination of Patrick Pizzella to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Labor and Marvin Kaplan and William Emanuel to serve as members of the National Labor Relations Board

Nomination of Scott Gottlieb, MD, to serve as Commissioner of Food and Drugs: The committee met to consider the nomination of Dr. Scott Gottlieb to serve as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Alexander said Dr. Gottlieb has “impressive qualifications from nearly every perspective” and is the right person to lead the Food and Drug Administration and its “vital mission” for patients

Nomination of Alex Acosta to serve as Secretary of Labor: The committee met to consider Secretary of Labor Nominee Alex Acosta. Alexander said that the Labor Secretary and Congress’s goal is to create an environment for American workers to succeed in a rapidly changing workplace and that harmful Obama-era labor regulations have only made it harder for Americans to create, find, or keep good-paying jobs. “We are fortunate today to have a presidential nominee for Labor Secretary who understands how a good-paying job is critical to helping workers realize the American dream for themselves and for their families.”

Nomination of Tom Price to serve as Secretary of Health and Human

Services: The committee met to consider the nomination of Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) to lead the Department of Health and Human Services. The committee does not vote on this nomination, but does hold a courtesy hearing

Nomination of Betsy DeVos to serve as Secretary of Education: The committee met to consider the nomination of Betsy DeVos to serve as Secretary of Education. Alexander said, “Betsy DeVos is on our children’s side. On charter schools and school choice, she is in the mainstream of those trying to help children succeed and her critics are outside of it.”

Looking at simplifying applying for financial aid and ensuring local control of schools

Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Examining Proposals to Simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): At the first hearing on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act Alexander said, “After four years of discussions over how to simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or the FAFSA, it is time to come to a result to make it easier for students to apply for federal financial aid.” Alexander has said the committee plans to continue its work on updating the Higher Education Act in the new year to make it simpler and easier for students to attend college

Exploring Free Speech on College Campuses: At a hearing on free speech on college campuses, Alexander said, “**Universities should be the place where people of different views may speak, audiences can listen, and many contrasting viewpoints are encouraged...** There should be some sensible way to allow speakers to speak and audiences to listen while still protecting freedoms offered by the First Amendment.”

The Every Student Succeeds Act: Unleashing State Innovation: At an oversight hearing on the Every Student Succeeds Act, a law the committee passed in 2015 to fix No Child Left Behind, Alexander said, “**Tennessee, Louisiana, and New Mexico have taken the most advantage of the flexibility we offered under the law in creating innovative state plans... I look forward to seeing ways other states are taking advantage of the freedom to innovate under ESSA.**”

Energy & Water Appropriations



- In 2017, Senator Alexander continued to serve as the Senate's top Republican on energy and water appropriations
- Federal funding included each year in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill is critical for Tennessee – especially **Oak Ridge** – which is home to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex. This bill also provides funding that benefits Tennessee's inland waterways which rely on funding from the Army Corps of Engineers to maintain navigation and our network of locks and dams, including the **Chickamauga Lock**
- 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** and the **Delta Regional Authority**
- Alexander worked with his colleagues to get a result, approving an appropriations bill that included record levels of funding for the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Energy's Office of Science – which is the primary source of funding for basic science and energy research at **Oak Ridge National Laboratory** – and ARPA-E, which supports the development of transformational, high-impact energy technologies across the country

- Funding was also included to continue cleanup of Cold War sites in Oak Ridge and continued construction of the **Uranium Processing Facility**, which processes enriched uranium for nuclear weapons systems. Alexander has pushed to keep construction costs of large projects under control, and the Uranium Processing Facility is staying ***on time and on budget*** with plans to be completed by 2025 at a cost of no more than \$6.5 billion. Alexander was also responsible for making sure the design of the nuclear facilities will be 90% complete before construction of those buildings begins
- Alexander continues to support investing in our nation's inland waterways and included funding to continue construction of **Chickamauga Lock** in East Tennessee and restored funding to help maintain our nation's harbors

The Senate version of the Fiscal Year 2018 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, authored by Alexander, included the following priorities:

- \$6.2 billion for the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**, which restored the \$1 billion that was cut from President Trump's budget, bringing the Corps' budget up to a record funding level
 - \$78 million to continue construction of Chickamauga Lock in Chattanooga
 - \$1.67 million for dredging at the Memphis Harbor-McKellar Lake
- \$5.5 billion for the **U.S Department of Energy's Office of Science**, which supports basic science and energy research and is the nation's largest supporter of research in the physical sciences, also a record funding level in a regular appropriations bill
- \$330 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E). ARPA-E was created by the 2007 America COMPETES Act to invest in **high-impact energy technologies**
- \$13.7 billion for the **National Nuclear Security Administration**, including \$1.7 billion to continue four ongoing life extension programs, which fix or replace components in weapons systems to make sure they're safe and reliable

- \$663 million for the **Uranium Processing Facility** at the Y-12 National Security Complex, which will continue to keep this project on time and on budget, with a completion year of 2025 at a cost no greater than \$6.5 billion
- \$92 million for **Advanced Reactors**, which is \$28 million more than the president’s budget request, and will support the next generation of nuclear power plants
- \$40 million for research and development to support existing nuclear reactors and \$24 million for the **Center for Advanced Simulation of Light Water Reactors** at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- \$6.6 billion to clean up hazardous materials at Cold War-era sites
 - \$518 million was included for cleanup at the **East Tennessee Technology Park**, the **Oak Ridge National Laboratory**, and the **Y-12 National Security Complex**
- A new pilot program to allow **consolidated nuclear waste storage**, and funding to take steps to store nuclear waste at private facilities
- \$1.49 billion for **Advanced Scientific Computing and Research**, also known as “supercomputing,” including \$734.2 million within the National Nuclear Security Administration and \$763 million within the Department of Energy’s Office of Science. This funding will be used to deliver at least one Exascale machine by 2021 to reassert U.S. leadership in supercomputing
 - \$150 million was included for the **Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility**, an increase of \$40 million above last year.
 - \$20 million was included for the **Manufacturing Demonstration Facility in Oak Ridge** to support the development of additive manufacturing processes, low-cost carbon fiber, and other advanced manufacturing technologies.

- The bill also proposed to **eliminate wasteful spending**, saving \$50 million, by eliminating the U.S. contribution to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor in France
- The bill also included funding for regional commissions that benefit Tennessee, which the administration proposed to eliminate. \$142 million was included for the **Appalachian Regional Commission** and \$25 million was included for the **Delta Regional Authority**

Legislation

Was the principal sponsor (or author) of nearly 20 pieces of legislation, including:

- **Designating the “Fred D. Thompson Federal Building and United States Courthouse” in Nashville (S. 60 & H.R. 375)** – The bill, which was signed into law by President Trump on June 6, 2017, designates the new Federal building and United States courthouse that will be located at 719 Church Street in Nashville, Tennessee, as the "Fred D. Thompson Federal Building and United States Courthouse"
- **James K. Polk Presidential Home Study Act (S. 99)** – A bill to require the Secretary of Interior to conduct a special resource study and evaluate the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a unit of the National Park System
- **Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Designation Act (S. 100)** – A bill to expand the boundaries of Shiloh National Military Park to include three Civil War battlefields in Tennessee and Mississippi and designate Parker’s Crossroads as an affiliated area of the National Park System
- **Health Care Options Act (S. 761)** – Legislation allowing any American who receives a subsidy and has no insurance available on their exchange next year to use that subsidy to buy any state-approved insurance off of the exchange. The bill would also waive the Affordable Care Act requirement that these Americans, who have zero insurance options with their subsidies, have to pay a penalty for not purchasing insurance
- **FDA Reauthorization Act (S. 934)** – A bill to reauthorize the four Food and Drug Administration (FDA) user fee agreements to ensure the FDA has the funding it needs to quickly and safely bring new drugs and treatments to patients
- **Tennessee Wilderness Act (S. 973)** – A bill to designate nearly 20,000 acres in six areas of the Cherokee National Forest as wilderness areas

- **Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act (S. 1350)** – A bill to adopt long-standing National Labor Relations Board election procedures and prevent the Board from implementing sweeping changes on the workplace
- **Commercial Flight Courtesy Act (S. 1450)** – A bill to prohibit voice cell phone communications during passenger flights
- **Reauthorizing the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area (S. 1472)** – A bill to extend the authority of the Department of the Interior to make grants and provide assistance for the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area through FY2021
- **Fiscal Year 2018 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill (S. 1609)** – A bill to provide funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works projects, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy (DOE), and independent agencies such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Appalachian Regional Commission for fiscal year 2018
- **Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Education Relief Act (S. 1866)** – A bill to provide education related relief to areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. The legislation was signed into law by President Trump on September 29, 2017
- A joint resolution **overturning the Obama administration's overreaching regulation** implementing accountability provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – an affirmation that Congress, not the Education Department, writes the laws (S.J. Res 25)
- A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 16th annual **National Charter Schools Week** (S. Res. 148)
- A resolution designating June 20, 2017 as “**American Eagle Day**” and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States (S. Res. 191)

- A resolution designating October 30, 2017, as a national day of remembrance for **nuclear weapons program workers** (S. Res. 314)
- A resolution designating the week beginning December 3, 2017, as "**National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week**" (S. Res. 352)

Cosponsored more than 50 other pieces of legislation, including:

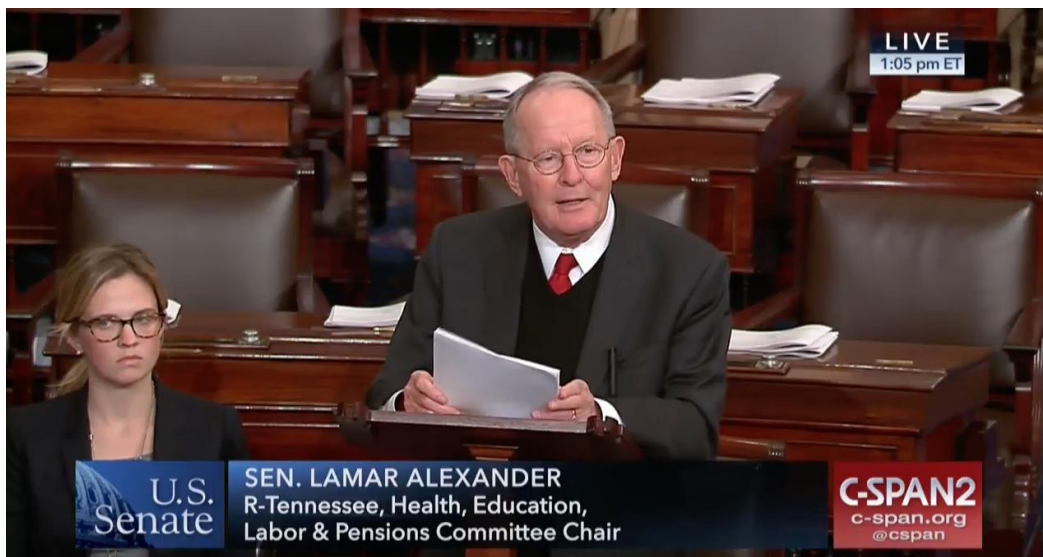
- **Death Tax Repeal Act (S. 205)** – A bill to repeal the federal estate tax
- **The CHOICE Act (S. 235)** – A bill to expand school choice options through expanded school opportunities for military families, changes to the DC Opportunity Scholarship, and make Individuals with Disabilities Education Act funds portable
- **Davis-Bacon Repeal Act (S. 244)** – A bill to repeal the wage requirement of the Davis-Bacon Act
- **Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act (S. 260)** – A bill to terminate the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), which was created by Obamacare to develop proposals to reduce the per capita rate of growth in Medicare spending
- **Pension & Budget Integrity Act (S. 270)** – A bill to prohibit increases in Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) premiums from being used as budget gimmick to offset other federal spending
- **Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act (S. 306)** – A bill to require biennial budgeting for the federal government
- **Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds Congressional Gold Medal Act (S. 352)** – A bill to posthumously award of a Congressional Gold Medal to Roddie Edmonds in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during World War II
- **Fair Medicare Hospital Payments Act (S. 397)** – A bill to change area wage adjustment factors for hospital inpatient and outpatient services covered under Medicare

- A bill to permanently reauthorize the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (S. 569)**
- **Sportsmen's Act (S. 733)** – A bill to expand access for hunting, fishing, and recreational activities as well as supports habitat conservation programs
- **Marketplace Fairness Act (S. 976)** – 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
- **Affordable Retirement Advice Protection Act (S. 1321)** – A bill to block the so-called “fiduciary rule and improve the laws governing financial advice without hurting families
- **Employee Rights Act (S. 1774)** – A bill to prevent a labor organization or its agents from interfering with the rights of employees
- **Fix NICS Act (S. 2135)** – A bill, introduced by Senator John Cornyn and supported by the National Rifle Association, to enforce current law regarding the National Instant Criminal Background Check System

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

Speeches & Events in Tennessee and Washington, D.C.

- **Remarks on the U.S. Senate Floor About Obamacare Emergency – January 10, 2017, Washington, D.C.** – “The American people deserve health care reform that’s done in the right way, for the right reasons, in the right amount of time. It’s not about developing a quick fix. It’s about working toward long-term solutions that work for everyone.”



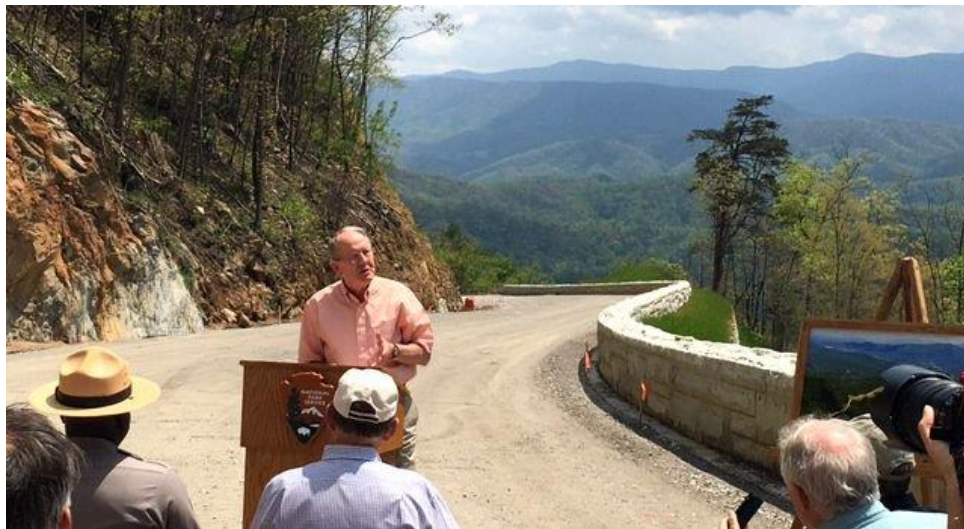
- **Speech to the National School Boards Association – January 30, 2017, in Washington, D.C.** – “That law isn’t worth the paper it’s written on unless it’s implemented the way we wrote it. We don’t need the U.S. Department of Education coming up with a big new idea, or a big old idea. The Congress has already debated and voted on and found a conclusion on, and then tried to change our regulation. So I’m here to ask for your help in implementing the law the way we wrote it. And here’s what that means. That means making sure that the mandates in Washington that we outlawed stay outlawed. No more mother may I waiver it. The federal common core mandates are gone. Adequate yearly progress, that’s your decision to make, not the Secretary of Education in Washington.”

- **Remarks to the American Enterprise Institute – March 29, 2017, in Washington, D.C.** – “The lesson of the last 40 years is that the National School Board is inappropriate first because a small federal department of education simply doesn’t have the capacity to evaluate teachers, rate schools, set standards, and approve tests in 100,000 schools in 50 states. Second, we have learned, especially with the Common Core debate and teacher evaluation debate, that Washington involvement can be counterproductive and can create a backlash among those who would probably do the same thing if left alone to do it. Third, ingrained into our big complicated country is a strong preference for local control of schools and a strong skepticism that someone at a great distance can improve on decisions made by those closest to the children.”



- **Remarks to the Tennessee Association of Manufacturers – April 19, 2017, in Chattanooga, Tenn.** – “The issue for Tennessee workers today is not whether they belong to a union, it’s whether they have the skills to adapt to the changing workplace. In Tennessee, we’ve got lots of advanced manufacturers coming in and they need skilled workers. Governor Haslam has not only shown formidable skill in recruiting companies, he’s also giving Tennessee high school students the best opportunity in history to earn a college degree with Tennessee Promise—but the federal government should be helping him create an environment for Tennesseans and employers to succeed.”

- **Remarks at the Groundbreaking for the final section of the “Missing Link” of the Foothills Parkway – April 20, 2017, in Wears Valley, Tenn.** – “If you want to see the Smokies, you’ll drive the Foothills Parkway because it’s the only road that gives you such a spectacular view of the highest mountains in the eastern United States. The missing link is so picturesque it is worth the 75-year wait.”



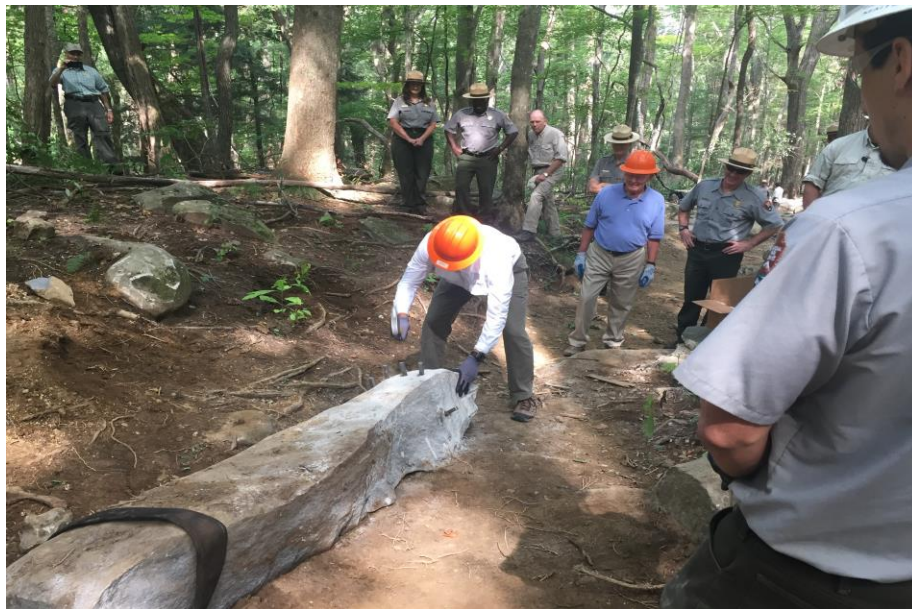
- **Remarks at a roundtable hosted by the University of Memphis FedEx Institute of Technology and the National Cancer Institute – May 5, 2017, in Memphis, Tenn.** – “As a result of the Precision Medicine Initiative, the National Cancer Institute has been able to start new clinical trials so we can learn more about genetically targeted therapies for patients, including those that are resistant to treatments. Enrolling higher numbers of cancer patients from rural areas in clinical trials will help us better understand cancer in rural populations—and, ultimately, allow doctors to use genomic information to develop better treatments for them.”
- **Touring Oak Ridge with Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry – May 22, 2017** – “We welcome Governor Perry to Oak Ridge. I’ve known him 25 years, and he spent today learning a lot about Oak Ridge. We know that Oak Ridge means thousands of jobs and higher family incomes, and it also means keeping us safe. We both saw the importance of the defense capabilities here and the job-creating capabilities. We’ve seen the materials researched, we’ve seen some of the fastest computers in the world. All those things make us very proud of Oak Ridge. I’m especially proud and all of us are grateful that Governor Perry took time to make Oak Ridge a priority so early in your term as Energy Secretary.”



- **Remarks to the Kiwanis Club of Cleveland (Bradley County) – July 6, 2017, in Cleveland, Tenn.** – “Some of you will remember the words common core. I was going around running for reelection in 2014, everybody was mad about common core. Not everybody knew what it was, but they were mad about it and they wanted it repealed so I said okay well if they election goes right I’ll be chairman of the education committee and we’ll repeal it and we’ll send decisions like that back to Bradley County, Cleveland, Maryville, you decide things like that Washington won’t be telling you what to do. Long short of it was we had an election, I came became chairman of the education committee, commission, we worked for about two years and we passed a law affecting elementary and secondary education that repealed the common core mandate, that reversed the trend to a nation school board that sent most decisions about elementary and secondary education back where they belong to open school boards, to class room teachers and the families.”
- **Visiting the Ripley Tomato Festival in West Tennessee – July 15, 2017, in Ripley, Tenn.** – “It was good to be in Lauderdale County and enjoy some of the special attractions they have to offer. I attended several events at the Ripley Tomato Festival -- including the Saturday Salad lunch at the First Methodist Church, and I stopped by the Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce tent at Ripley City Park.”



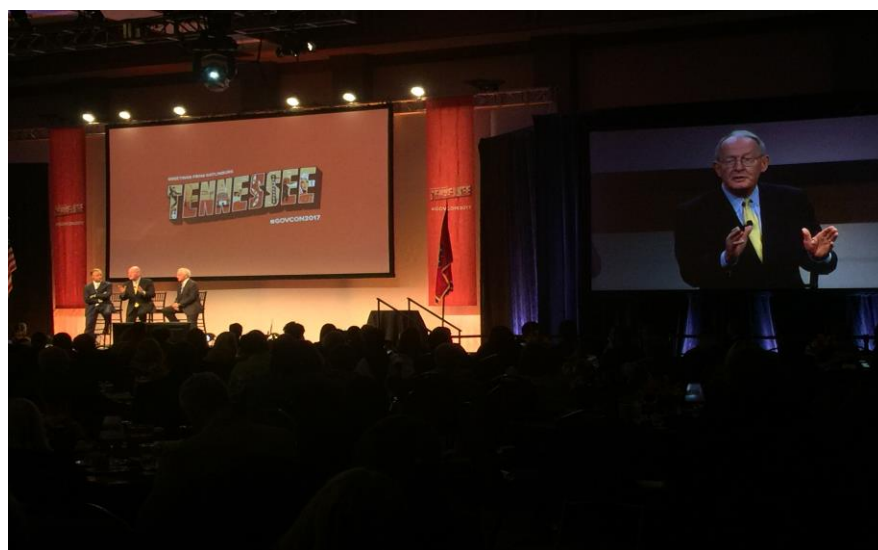
- **Celebrating the 101st anniversary of the National Park Service and welcoming Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to the Smokies – August 25, 2017** – “Secretary Zinke is trying to solve the maintenance backlog in the Smokies – a problem our national parks are struggling with. This maintenance backlog – which includes roads, buildings, campgrounds, trails, water systems and more – limits access to our national parks and diminishes visitor experiences. Park employees and volunteers are filling this gap, donating nearly 120,000 hours to the Smokies every year. I am glad Secretary Zinke is exploring ways to address the maintenance backlog in order to help get the next generation of visitors out to our nation’s parks.”



- **Welcoming Ivanka Trump to the Washington, D.C. Office – September 29, 2017, in Washington, D.C.** – “She’s especially interested in women entrepreneurs. She’s one herself. I think she’s an especially effective advocate, especially outside of Washington, D.C., where she’s well-known and would be welcomed by a great many people who are interested in those same subjects.”



- **Remarks to Governor’s Conference on Economic and Community Development on October 27, 2017, in Gatlinburg, Tenn.** – “I think when you celebrate our communities one-by-one who we are, we’re a pretty interesting place. People like it here. People look at Tennessee and it has some personality and pizzazz and for all these reasons it’s a good place. What can we do better? We need to have more, better-trained people with post-grad experience to get the jobs and do the jobs that you bring in, and that’s the single most important thing.”



- **Remarks to the Brentwood Rotary Club – December 15, 2017, in Brentwood, Tenn.** – Alexander told Brentwood rotary members the story of Marty, a farmer he met in Nashville last week who will pay \$1,300 a month next year in premiums, making it very difficult for her to afford. The average Tennessean has seen premiums rise 176% over the last five years and an additional 58 percent this year, the senator said



Op-eds

- **We Must Quickly Fix Tennessee’s Obamacare Emergency – Op-Ed in *The Tennessean* on February 20, 2017** – “There is an Obamacare emergency in Tennessee. Humana’s announcement that it is pulling out of all Obamacare exchanges could leave 40,000 residents in Knoxville with no health care exchange options next year—they may have an Obamacare subsidy but it’ll be like holding a bus ticket in a town where no buses run.

“Here is what we are working to do: We will first send in a rescue crew to repair temporarily a collapsing health care market so Americans who buy individual insurance can continue to do so while we build a better set of concrete, practical alternatives. Then, step by step, we will build better systems that give Americans access to truly affordable health care. We will do this by moving health care decisions out of Washington, D.C., and back to states and patients – which will help states where the individual market is struggling, including in Tennessee. Testifying at a Senate health committee hearing this month, Tennessee’s Insurance Commissioner Julie McPeak urged Congress to give more flexibility back to states stressing that it would stabilize and regulate their markets. Finally, when our reforms become concrete, practical alternatives, the repeal of the remaining parts of Obamacare will go into effect in order to repair the damage it has caused Americans. If your local bridge were “very near collapse,” the first thing you would do is send in a rescue crew to repair it temporarily so no one else is hurt.”

- **Obamacare Subsidy Useless if Insurance Companies Pull Out – Op-Ed in *The Commercial Appeal* on March 4, 2017** – “There is an Obamacare emergency in our state, and Tennesseans are right to care about the damage Obamacare is doing. Last year, BlueCross BlueShield — the oldest and largest insurer in Tennessee — pulled out of Memphis, leaving Humana and Cigna as the only insurance companies on the Memphis exchange for 2017. I have been saying for months that Congress needs to act immediately to rescue Americans trapped in the failing Obamacare exchanges. In February, the Department of Health and Human Services released a proposed rule to help rescue Americans from the currently collapsing Obamacare individual market — a good first step towards rescuing the health care market that the Tennessee state insurance commissioner says is “very near collapse.”

- **Trump Trip to Highlight Urgency of Obamacare Substitute – Op-ed in *The Tennessean* on March 14, 2017** – “Tennesseans welcome President Trump to Nashville. This is an opportunity for him to visit one of our country’s most vibrant cities and to honor one of our most important Presidents, Andrew Jackson. It is also an opportunity for the president to learn more about the plight of 230,000 Tennesseans who will likely have zero health insurance options in 2018 if Congress does not act soon to replace and repeal major parts of the Affordable Care Act. ...Our health care system is complex but our goal should be simple: Give Americans more choices of lower-cost insurance by moving more health care decisions out of Washington, D.C., to states and patients.”
- **Fix Imperiled Health Insurance Market – Op-Ed in *The Tennessean* on September 12, 2017**– “Last week, Governor Haslam and Tennessee’s insurance commissioner, Julie McPeak, came to Washington to testify before the Senate health committee — which I chair — to help us take a small step to help solve a problem that’s causing a lot of grief for 350,000 Tennesseans.

“These Tennesseans are in the individual insurance market. Nationwide, 18 million get their insurance in that market, rather than from an employer or from Medicare or Medicaid. It is only 6 percent of people who have health insurance in America, but each one is important. These are farmers in Pulaski, songwriters in Nashville, small business owners in Sevierville — and right now, they are facing the very real prospect of skyrocketing insurance premiums in 2018 — or even having zero options for health insurance next year.”

- **Protecting Public Land – Op-Ed in *The Maryville Daily Times* on October 1, 2017** – “Theodore Roosevelt once said that nothing short of defending this country in wartime ‘compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.’ This weekend, Americans across the country will work to leave our public lands better for future generations by volunteering on public lands throughout the country to mark National Public Lands Day. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the President’s Commission on Americans Outdoors.

“When I was governor of Tennessee in 1985, President Ronald Reagan asked me to chair the President’s Commission on Americans Outdoors — and he challenged those of us on the commission ‘to look ahead for a generation and

see what needs to be done for Americans to have appropriate places to do what they want to do outdoors.’ More than a generation has passed now, and on the 30th anniversary of the commission, we can look back on the recommendations of the report and take an assessment.”

- **End the Wind Production Tax Credit – Op-Ed in *The National Review* on November 17, 2017** – “It’s an expensive, wasteful subsidy to an inefficient industry. Congress is focused on making our backward tax code into something that encourages our nation’s instinct for creativity and innovation. As we look at all the wasteful and unnecessary tax breaks that are holding us back, I have a nomination: At the top of the list should be ending the quarter-century-old wind production tax credit now — not two years from now. This giveaway to wind developers was meant to end in 1999 but has been extended by Congress ten different times. While the wind production tax credit is scheduled to be phased out by the end of 2019, we should do better and end it at the end of this year, and use the \$4 billion in savings to lower tax rates.”
- **“The Alexander-Murray Bill” – Op-Ed in *The Washington Examiner* on December 7, 2017** – When President Trump followed a court’s ruling earlier this year and ended the previous administration’s unconstitutional payments of the Affordable Care Act’s cost-sharing reduction payments — because they had never been approved by Congress — he gave Congress a job: Take care of our people, prevent chaos, approve the payments, and don’t bail out insurance companies.

So, that’s what we did. With input from four hearings in the Senate health committee and meetings attended by more than half of the Senate, Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and I wrote a bill that would fund cost-sharing reduction payments for two years, give states a fast-track to freedom from Obamacare, and allow anyone at all to buy a lower-cost catastrophic “copper” healthcare plan.”

- **Reducing Taxes for Most Tennessee Families – Op-Ed in *The Tennessean* on December 22, 2017** – “This week, Congress and President Trump delivered a well-deserved Christmas present to Tennessee families and businesses. The tax reform bill that Congress sent to the president will help create more good-paying jobs for Tennessee families and let Tennesseans keep more of the money they earn in their pockets.

“This law, which is the first major tax reform passed in 31 years, nearly doubles the standard deduction—which means twice as much of your income is not taxed at all. Doubling the standard deduction will also make it easier for Tennesseans to file their taxes because most Americans will not have to go through the arduous process of itemizing every deduction.

“This law also repeals the individual mandate, which has been a particularly cruel tax to lower-income Tennesseans—most of the people in our state who pay the individual mandate penalty make less than \$50,000 a year.

“One of the most exciting things we can expect from the law is new business investment— which means more jobs and new facilities in Tennessee. Not only will this mean better jobs for you or your neighbor, it means a healthier economy for your neighborhood, your town, and our state.”

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

<http://alexander.senate.gov>