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### **ALEC Commends Gov. Walker for Decreasing Burdens on Businesses by Reforming Wisconsin's Legal System**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Jan. 27, 2011) - Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R-WI) signed into law today Special Session Senate Bill 1, legislation aimed at reforming the state's civil justice system. The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) commended newly-elected Gov. Walker and the new Wisconsin legislature for their leadership in responding quickly to their mandate to restore business confidence and for making tort reform one of their top priorities to achieve this goal.

"Wisconsin's legislature and Gov. Walker should be lauded for their immediate attention to reforming the state's legal system. They are the first of many states expected to consider such tort reforms as part of job creation packages in 2011," said Amy Kjose, ALEC's Civil Justice Task Force Director. "Reforming state legal systems is often a budget-neutral way, or sometimes even a budget-positive way, to restore confidence for businesses as the economy struggles to recover."

The bill comes at a critical time, when Gov. Walker called the legislature into special session for the express purpose of decreasing burdens on business and reigniting the state's sluggish economy. This bill is a strong piece of reform legislation that will have a significant impact on Wisconsin's legal climate and economic viability.

ALEC is deeply committed to the advancement of substantive civil justice reform in the states and supports this legislation, which includes numerous provisions that reflect the policy and model legislation of the ALEC Civil Justice Task Force.

Among other things, SB 1 will keep junk science from tampering with justice, will strengthen the standards for filing products liability cases against manufacturers, and will discourage inflated punitive damages awards where unwarranted.

The legislation brings together numerous such reforms with one overarching goal: providing predictability and fairness in the legal system in order to pave the way for job creation in Wisconsin.

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*The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is the nation's largest nonpartisan individual membership association of state legislators, with nearly 2,000 state legislators across the nation and more than 100 alumni members in Congress. ALEC's mission is to promote free markets, individual liberty, and federalism through its model legislation in the states.*

*Amy Kjose is director of ALEC's Civil Justice Task Force and educates lawmakers, drives model legislation, conducts research, builds coalition support, and heightens media awareness in support of state civil justice reform. Amy holds a B.S. in international studies from the Johns Hopkins University.*

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