

1 **Resolution in Support of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission Standards**

2 **WHEREAS**, in June 2009, the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission released national  
3 standards for the prevention, detection, response, and monitoring of sexual abuse in U.S. detention  
4 facilities; and

5 **WHEREAS**, these standards were mandated by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), which  
6 Congress passed unanimously in 2003 to study the causes and consequences of sexual abuse in  
7 confinement and to develop standards for eliminating abuse; and

8 **WHEREAS**, these standards are the product of several years of research and extensive consultation  
9 with corrections professionals, researchers, advocates, and survivors of sexual abuse in detention; and

10 **WHEREAS**, these standards balance the rights of inmates with security interests—calling on  
11 corrections agencies to establish zero-tolerance for sexual abuse, to strengthen policies and practices,  
12 to improve staff training, to hold perpetrators accountable, and to open facilities up to external  
13 scrutiny; and

14 **WHEREAS**, there are more than 2.3 million Americans confined in U.S. correctional facilities; and

15 **WHEREAS**, given our country’s enormous investment in corrections, we should ensure that these  
16 environments are as safe and productive as they can be; and

17 **WHEREAS**, prisons, jails, and other detention settings are part of the justice system, not separate  
18 from it; and

19 **WHEREAS**, institutional violence, including sexual abuse, undermines the purposes of corrections—  
20 it makes facilities less safe for everyone, consumes scarce resources, and its consequences extend into  
21 our cities and towns as 95 percent of all prisoners are one day released; and

22 **WHEREAS**, if fully approved and implemented, these basic measures will dramatically lower the rate  
23 of sexual abuse in U.S. detention facilities, and improve the response to prisoners who have been  
24 victimized; and

25 **WHEREAS**, many standards reflect what corrections professionals recognize as good practices, and  
26 are already operational in some places, or are requirements under existing laws; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution forbids cruel and unusual punishment;  
28 and

29 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)  
30 supports efforts at the federal, state, and local levels to protect incarcerated individuals from sexual  
31 abuse; and

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ALEC earnestly and resolutely supports the National Prison  
33 Rape Elimination Commission’s recommended standards.