

# BLOOD FOR MONEY NRA, ALEC, & 'SHOOT FIRST' LAWS

The tragic shooting of Trayvon Martin has exposed the NRA and ALEC's deadly network of money and influence, which they use to push for more state laws like Florida's, which may shield Trayvon's killer from prosecution.



## GUN MANUFACTURERS

Facing a decline in gun ownership, firearms manufacturers are investing in the NRA--to the tune of between **\$15.7 million and \$38.9 million since 2005**.<sup>1</sup> Easing firearms restrictions and stoking bogus fears of Obama gun confiscations could drive profits.



## NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION


The National Rifle Association spends tens of millions of dollars every year in elections and lobbying to advance its legislative agenda. In 2010 alone, **the NRA spent as much as \$28 million dollars in candidate contributions and lobbying**.<sup>\*</sup> With this torrent of cash, the NRA has flexed its political muscle to quickly and radically gut our nation's public safety laws. "Shoot First" is but one of the extreme legislative proposals that the NRA has rammed through state legislatures in the past decade.




## STATE LEGISLATURES

The NRA is a dominant force in state legislatures. In the last election cycle alone, the NRA's state legislative political expenditures total at least \$3.5 million, resulting in, for example:


### FLORIDA

 FL State Senator Durell Peaden and Representative Dennis Baxley joined forces with former NRA President and FL lobbyist Marion Hammer to push through the 2005 'Shoot First' bill, the first law of its kind in the country.<sup>2</sup> In the last election cycle alone, the NRA spent \$729,863 to influence FL politicians.

### WISCONSIN

 Wisconsin passed 'Shoot First' legislation in late 2011.<sup>3</sup> In the last election cycle alone, the NRA's political expenditures total at least \$161,291 in the state.

### PENNSYLVANIA

 Pennsylvania passed 'Shoot First' legislation in June 2011.<sup>4</sup> The NRA lobbyist in PA attended the bill signing with its lead sponsors from the General Assembly and the Governor. In the last election cycle alone, the NRA spent more than \$142,170 in the state.

## ALEC

### AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

Ostensibly a network of state legislators, ALEC is a shadowy, \$7 million-a-year organization funded by powerful corporate interests like the Koch brothers, Big Oil, and Big Tobacco.<sup>5</sup> The NRA has been a longtime financial supporter and served as the corporate co-chair of the ALEC Criminal Justice Task Force, voting with legislators on "model" bills.<sup>6</sup> Through ALEC, special interests groups like the NRA push their dream legislation through state legislatures. Wal-Mart was corporate co-chair of ALEC task force approving FL's "Shoot First" bill as a "model" for other states. The NRA was the next co-chair of that ALEC committee.

## SHOOT FIRST LAWS

In just seven years since ALEC adopted the model "Shoot First" law, ALEC members and the NRA have successfully worked to get laws passed around the country that encourage armed vigilantism. **In more than 30 states, it is now legal to lethally shoot another person if you feel threatened, even if you could have safely walked away.** No reliable statistics track how many people have been killed nationwide thanks to these laws, but in Florida alone, there are on average two homicides each week where the killers are likely to go free.<sup>7</sup> **That's two Trayvons--every week.**

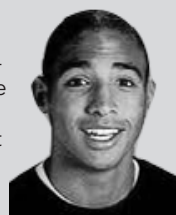
### TRAYVON MARTIN

Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old, was fatally shot as he walked home from a convenience store in February 2012. Because of the 'Shoot First' law in Florida, his killer has not been arrested.



### BO MORRISON

Morrison, an unarmed 20-year-old, was fatally shot while hiding on a neighbor's porch after police broke up an underage drinking party in March 2012. Because of the 'Shoot First' bill signed into law in 2011 by WI Gov. Scott Walker, no charges have been filed against his killer.



### BRANDON ZETH

Zeth, an unarmed 24-year-old, was fatally shot five times in PA in Jan 2012, by a homeowner who thought he was an intruder. Zeth banged on the door of the home, mistaking it for his girlfriend's. No charges have been filed.



\*Note: NRA contributions come from publically available sources which likely substantially under report total expenditures. Sources: 1. Blood Money: How the Gun Industry Bankrolls the NRA, Violence Policy Center, April 2011. 2. Media Matters: "Former NRA President: We Helped Draft Florida's 'Stand Your Ground' Law," March 27, 2012, <http://mediamatters.org/mobile/research/201203270005>. 3. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel "Walker signs 'castle doctrine' bill, other measures," Dec 7, 2011. 4. NRA Press Release. "Pennsylvania Governor Signs NRA-Backed Castle Doctrine into Law," Jun 28, 2011. <http://www.nra.org/News/Read/NewsReleases.aspx?ID=15275>. 5. ALEC budget verified by their 2011 1099 tax filing. See also The Nation, "ALEC Exposed: The Koch Connection," July 12, 2011. 6. See ALEC section of [http://www.source-watch.org/index.php?title=National\\_Rifle\\_Association](http://www.source-watch.org/index.php?title=National_Rifle_Association). 7. Tampa Bay Times, "Five years since Florida enacted 'stand-your-ground' law, justifiable homicides are up" October 17, 2010, <http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/crime/article1126317.ece>