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New Scorecard Reveals Congress' Best & Worst on Food Issues

Food Policy Action's Third National Food Policy Scorecard Educates Voters, Brings Transparency & Accountability to National Discussion on Food Policy

Washington, D.C. – Today, Food Policy Action, a national nonprofit organization, announced that 71 Members of Congress – 54 in the House of Representatives, 17 in the Senate – have received perfect scores on the National Food Policy Scorecard. For every important food policy vote this year, these members voted in favor of common sense food policy. The National Food Policy Scorecard also identifies 35 Members of Congress who received scores of zero.

“These days, it’s incredibly difficult to understand what does, and too often doesn’t, go on behind the closed doors of Congress. Americans need to know how their elected officials vote on the policies that shape our food choices at the grocery store, at schools, and at the dinner table,” said Tom Colicchio, Food Policy Action Co-Founder and Chef. “The National Food Policy Scorecard is a tool that helps Americans see how our elected leaders vote on food and farm issues.”

Americans care deeply about the policies that dictate the food they eat, and how that food is produced. A recent poll by Food Policy Action and Lake Research Partners shows that Americans find it most important to support common sense policies on food safety, farm subsidies, and especially nutrition assistance for vulnerable groups like women, children, and veterans. For example, a 71 percent of respondents found a message that focuses on veterans and the impact of cuts to food stamps to be convincing, 50 percent found it very convincing.

In Food Policy Action’s Legislative Scorecard for the 113th Congress, Senators were graded on a combination of six votes and support of eight bills and House members on 18 votes and support of twelve bills related to these very issues that matter most to Americans: hunger, food aid, labeling, farm subsidies and sustainable farming. 71 Members of Congress received perfect scores, and 35 Members with scores of zero. And although 136 Members’ scores have improved, another 275 Members received lower scores than in 2012, including 82 Democrats, and 193 Republicans.

“If you happen to be an American, and if you happen to eat or feed a family, take a glance at this Scorecard and you’ll quickly learn what too many elected officials in Washington have put on your menu,” said Ken Cook, chairman of the Food Policy Action board. “They’re serving up budget cuts that mean less food for hungry kids, for seniors living on fixed incomes, and for veterans who’ve come home from war and are still looking for a job. Some in Washington voted to take generous helpings of your tax dollars to subsidize corporate farms and their wealthy

owners, while denying funds for the inspectors we need to make sure your family's food isn't contaminated with e. coli. In the time it takes to order drive-through, you can see who has voted to keep you in the dark about what's *really* in your food, because agribusiness likes it that way," Cook said. "This scorecard is food policy to go. Use it to find out which elected officials have catered to the food lobby, and which ones have served you, your family and your neighborhood well."

[Click here](#) to see full list of Good Food Champions in the Senate.

[Click here](#) to see full list of Good Food Champions in the House

Launched in 2012, Food Policy Action is the first national organization to publish an annual scorecard that grades lawmakers on congressional food policy votes. An advisory council of food policy experts picks which votes are relevant and should be scored. The Food Policy Action Board of Directors approves those choices.

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