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Contact: Ashley Wilson, awilson@networklobby.org, 202-601-7856

NETWORK Releases Annual Catholic Social Justice Scorecard for Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice announces the release of its [2016 Voting Record](#). This annual scorecard reflects the most important votes from the past year when Members of Congress did, or did not, act to mend the income, wealth, and access gaps and create an economy and society of inclusion.

Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, Executive Director of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, said “We are pleased to highlight the 136 members of the House of Representatives and two members of the Senate who scored 100% this year. This demonstrates that a quarter of the members of Congress consistently voted to care for the common good.” NETWORK prioritized votes that fit with its 2020 policy vision to mend the gaps. These policies include tax justice, living wages, family-friendly workplaces, democracy/voting rights, healthcare, citizenship/immigration, and housing.

However, NETWORK is concerned that there were not many votes on these key issues. NETWORK scored a total of five votes in the Senate and ten votes in the House of Representatives. “Failure to deal with pressing national issues, combined with pressure to campaign for much of the summer and fall added up to an unimpressive vote count for Congress in 2016. I am glad that there was a little bipartisan policy-making to pass housing modernization legislation and send federal funds to Flint, Michigan, but the people of the United States need more.” Sister Simone continued.

While Congress was occupied with partisan battles and campaign events, advocates spent much of last year working to prevent harmful legislation mired in election-year rhetoric.

“Mend the gap issues will continue to be priorities for NETWORK in the 115th Congress,” concluded Sister Simone. “Congress must not resort to extreme partisan positions, but care for the common good and meet the pressing needs of all in our nation.”

In the coming months, NETWORK members will continue lobby on Capitol Hill and across the country for policies that mend the gaps. NETWORK will organize deliveries of certificates to those who scored a 100% on their voting record in the coming days. **The voting records and each member’s score can be found online at <http://www.networklobby.org/votingrecord2016>.**

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NETWORK, a national Catholic Social Justice lobby, which educates, organizes, and lobbies for economic and social transformation, has a more than 40-year track record of lobbying for critical federal programs that support those at the margins and prioritize the common good.