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FEW Releases Voting Record Scorecard; Vows to Work with New Congress

(Washington, D.C.) – Federally Employed Women (FEW) released its Voting Record Scorecard for the 109th Congress. Seventeen Senators scored a perfect 100%, and another eleven scored 90%. Four of these Senators also scored 100% on FEW’s Scorecard for the 108th Congress – Sens. Richard Durbin (IL), Mary Landrieu (LA), Patty Murray (WA), and Maria Cantwell (WA).

On the House side, for which attainment of 100% was much harder, twelve scored 90%. Two of these legislators scored 100% during the 108th Congress – Reps. Janice Schakowsky (IL-9) and Carolyn Maloney (NY-14).

“We want to express our sincere thanks to these FEW Honorable Legislators,” stated FEW President Rhonda Trent. “Through their actions and votes, they not only have shown great support for federally employed women, but also for federal workers in general,” added Trent.

While the number of Honorable Legislators quadrupled in the Senate from the 108th Congress, the numbers went down by seven in the House. “We would like to double the numbers in both chambers during the 110th congressional session,” said Janet Kopenhaver, FEW’s Washington Representative. “We urge legislators coming back to work in this new Congress to support the goals of federal workers nationwide, and we stand ready to work with all lawmakers to achieve our legislative priorities,” Kopenhaver advised.

Based on votes and co-sponsor status of top legislative issues for federally employed women, legislators earned ten percentage points for supporting FEW’s position on selected issues and pieces of legislation. A copy of the *Voting Record* is attached, as well as the complete list of the **FEW Honorable Legislators** (see page 3 in the *Record*).

“Our organization and its members will monitor the actions and votes of the 110th Congress,” added Trent. “As our priority issues are debated, we will urge federally employed women to contact their legislators with their views and concerns.” FEW is also planning a Hill Lobby Day in February when all of the organization’s national officers and chapter presidents will be in Washington, D.C. to meet with their legislators to discuss important legislative issues.

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“It is very important for the members of FEW to be in contact with their respective legislators of the 110th Congress. We have to clearly communicate the issues that are important to us as federally employed women,” said Cecelia L. Davis, FEW Vice President for Congressional Relations. “We encourage our membership to send letters and make telephone calls to their legislators to address their concerns but the best opportunity for this is face-to-face discussion and this is accomplished with our Hill visits. We are very excited about both the opportunity to visit the Hill in February and to work with the 110th Congress,” added Davis.

FEW’s two top legislative goals this year are the enactment of a Paid Parental Leave Act which provides six weeks of paid leave for federal workers (both fathers and mothers) following the birth or adoption of a child; and the repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) Social Security provisions;. FEW is also working on ways to eliminate the glass ceiling in the federal government and improving the EEOC dispute settlement process.

FEW is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1968 after Executive Order 11375 was issued that added sex discrimination to the list of prohibited discrimination in the federal government. FEW has grown into an international organization serving over one million federally employed women – both in the military and civilian workforce.

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