BACKGROUND AND KEY MESSAGES:
In a year marked by partisanship, several Members of Congress stood out as Champions and Defenders of children, according to the 2017 Legislative Scorecard released by First Focus Campaign for Children, a national bipartisan children’s advocacy group.

“Even though child advocates had to defend a whole range of legislative and regulatory attacks on children, we have identified 120 Members of Congress that chose to make children a priority. We commend their leadership and hope they will inspire their colleagues to do the same,” said Bruce Lesley, President of the First Focus Campaign for Children.

The 2017 Champions for Children Scorecard includes key votes on health-related bills and amendments to tax legislation, including two House votes on the Children’s Health Insurance Program, two Senate votes on child tax credit amendments, and four votes between the two chambers on the Affordable Care Act. Learn more and view the report at www.championsforchildren2017.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND HASHTAG USE:
Use #Champion4Children to participate in this promotional campaign for the report, available on www.championsforchildren2017.com and the main Campaign for Children site (https://campaignforchildren.org/).

Also use the hashtag to thank your senators and representatives for their efforts as champions and defenders of children.

IMAGE BANK
Check out our bank of image materials here.
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2e67afif8lxx5qk/AABCRAVkUt0n2sorm2VcP9j8a?dl=0

SAMPLE TWEETS
• In a year marked by partisanship, certain lawmakers put politics aside and prioritized children’s needs. @Campaign4Kids recognizes these Champions and Defenders for Children, and the pro-
kid legislation they supported, at http://bit.ly/2O3yrfs #Champion4Children

• In 2017, defending children in the policy realm was no easy feat. We commend these 40 Senators and 80 Representatives, #Champion4Children, who continued to prioritize kids through many political attacks on their needs: http://bit.ly/2O3yrfs

• Our nation’s children face an array of problems, such as poverty, abuse, hunger, education inequity, homelessness, and lack of health coverage. These 120 lawmakers raised their voice for kids in 2017, and for that we commend them. http://bit.ly/2O3yrfs #Champion4Children

• These Champions and Defenders for Children are lawmakers spoke up for kids in 2017 by focusing on and supporting legislation that improved children’s lives and actively opposed legislation that would harm them. http://bit.ly/2O3yrfs #Champion4Children

• Children’s issues are far too often an afterthought in Congress — kids’ programs and needs are often reduced to legislative bargaining chips. Our 2017 champions actively brought kids’ issues to the forefront of the conversation. http://bit.ly/2O3yrfs #Champion4Children

• In 2017, Champions and Defenders for Children in Congress had their work cut out for them. These lawmakers worked to protect programs such as DACA and CHIP, and even upheld the ACA — proving their loyalty to the future of the U.S. #Champion4Children

PERSONALIZED TWEETS FOR CONGRESSPEOPLE

• Thank you [@lawmaker] for prioritizing children in 2017, a year in which children’s needs were continually used as a legislative bargaining chip. Our Legislative Scorecard identifies you as a Champion/Defender for/of Children! #Champion4Children http://bit.ly/2O3yrfs

• Kids are far too often an afterthought in Congress. But [@lawmaker] raised their voice for children’s issues in 2017. We at @Campaign4Kids thank you for being a Champion/Defender for/of Children. #Champion4Children http://bit.ly/2O3yrfs

FIRST FOCUS RESOURCES

• Champions for Children Website (Downloadable report in website): http://bit.ly/2O3yrfs