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SANDERS RATED 100 PERCENT ON VOTES FOR WOMEN AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., has received a 100 percent voting record scorecard for his support of women's reproductive rights and civil liberties issues.

Sanders received perfect voting scores from three major women's and civil rights organizations: the Business and Professional Women/USA organization, the Hollywood Women's Political Caucus and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Business and Professional Women/USA, a bi-partisan organization of 100,000 members dedicated to equity and economic self-sufficiency for working women, released its scorecard last week, giving a Sanders 100 percent rating for his votes in support of family and medical leave and civil rights issues. These included his support for the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and the H.R. 2, the Family and Medical Leave Act.

The ACLU evaluated 12 key issues and found that Sanders voted in support of civil liberties in each case.

And the Hollywood Women's Political Caucus placed Sanders on its Pro-Choice Honor Roll for his perfect score. That organization rates representatives on their voting records in support of pro-choice, reproductive freedom legislation. Its ratings were based on 13 votes, including votes on the abortion gag rule and medicaid funding.

"Civil liberties and reproductive rights go to the very core of freedom in a democratic society," Sanders said. "I am extremely proud of my record in Congress and longstanding commitment to fighting for all who rely on the historic Bill of Rights for protection of their civil liberties. Today, when these rights, and especially the rights of women, are increasingly under attack, I intend to remain vigilant and do everything I can to protect reproductive rights, freedom of speech -- including the arts -- and the other basic freedoms on which this great nation was founded."

The ACLU scorecard rated Sanders favorably with respect to his votes on the Fairness in Death Sentencing Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Striker Replacement Act, the Omnibus Crime Bill/Death Penalty Amendment, the death penalty for drug kingpins amendment and an amendment allowing evidence seized with an invalid warrant to be used against the defendant. Also rated were votes on habeas corpus, race-based sentencing, National Arts Administration funding and other measures.

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