

Rudd Center Legislation Database Methodology

Purpose

The Rudd Center Legislative Database (“Database”) was established with the intention of creating a streamlined access point for proposed legislation related to food policy issues. It was originally developed to track legislation related to the Rudd Center’s mission to promote solutions to childhood obesity, poor diet, and weight bias through research and policy. The Database is an aggregation of proposed state and federal bills, searchable by state, year, and topic. The bills within the Database are meant to provide researchers with a snapshot of the trends and type of legislation being introduced nationwide in the relevant fields: it does not include bill text analysis or evaluation and is not an exhaustive list of food policy bills.

Categories & Corresponding Search Strings

The Rudd Center has developed multiple categories (“labels”) within which to nest proposed legislation to make the data more accessible to researchers. The labels are listed below, including the subtopics of the types of bills generally included in each, the pertinent exclusions, and the corresponding search strings. The strings are periodically updated to ensure that they remain current and adaptive to detecting new trends. The search string development process was informed by the Westlaw Next Terms and Connectors [Searching Guide](#), the Congress.gov [search operator’s guide](#), and Rudd’s advocacy experience. As demonstrated below, some of the bills fall within multiple issue areas; consequently, the Database permits the placement of one bill in up to three separate categories.

Label	Subtopics Captured	Search Strings
<i>Access to Healthy Food</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food deserts • Healthy corner stores • Healthy food financing initiatives • Health disparities • Food donations • Healthy vending • Built Environment • Food insecurity • Post graduate campus programs • Food taxes 	<p><u>CapitolWatch</u> ("food desert" "food gap!" "access to healthy food" health! fresh super-market "grocery store" "bodega!" grocer! market "food store" low-income retail!) /120 (obes! over-weight weight "health disparit!")</p> <p><u>NexisUni</u> ("food desert" OR (food /2 gap!) OR "access to healthy food" OR health! OR fresh OR super-market OR</p>

		<p>“grocery store” OR grocer! OR bodeg! OR “low-income retail”) /p (obes! OR overweight OR (health /2 dispar!))</p> <p>Congress.gov (“food desert” OR “food gap”~3 OR “access to healthy food” OR health* OR fresh OR supermarket OR grocer* OR bodega OR “low-income retail”)(obes* OR overweight OR “health dispar*”~3)</p>
<i>Breastfeeding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breastfeeding • Formula 	<p>CapitolWatch “breastfeeding” "infant formula" "infant nutrition" "breast milk" "artificial feeding" "baby friendly" "baby friendly hospital initiative" "nursing mother" "baby formula"</p> <p>NexisUni “breastfeeding” OR “(baby OR infant) formula” OR “infant nutrition” OR “breast milk” OR “baby friendly” OR (nursing /2 mother!)</p> <p>Congress.gov “breastfeeding” OR “baby formula” OR “infant formula” OR “infant nutrition” OR “breast milk” OR “baby friendly” OR “nursing mother”~3</p>
<i>Farms and Gardens</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm-to-school initiatives • Farmers’ markets • Urban agriculture • Urban farms • Community-supported agriculture • Double up initiatives through SNAP, WIC 	<p>CapitolWatch ("farm-to-school" school! scholastic education! academic curriculum) /10 (food! diet weight obese health! obesity over-weight) /10 ("local garden" "farmer market!" "farm stand!" "local agriculture" "local farm!" "Community supported agriculture" "community-supported agriculture" "vegetable co-op!" farm "sustainable agriculture" "commodity price" "commodity</p>

		<p>food!" "commodity entitlement!") "urban farm!" "food bill"</p> <p><u>NexisUni</u> “farm-to-school” OR (farmer! /2 Market!) OR “farm stand” OR “urban agriculture” OR (urban /2 garden!) OR (urban /2 farm!) OR (vegetable OR fruit OR fresh /2 co-op) OR “sustainable agriculture” OR “community-support! Agriculture” OR (local! /2 grown)</p> <p><u>Congress.gov</u> “farm to school” OR “farmer* market” OR “farm stand” OR “urban agriculture” OR “urban garden” OR “urban farm*” OR “vegetable fruit fresh co-op”~10 OR “sustainable agriculture*” OR “community support* agriculture*” OR “local* grown”~3</p>
<p><i>Food Assistance Programs</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) • Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) • Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) • Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) • Restrictions on food sales 	<p><u>CapitolWatch</u> "food assistance" S.N.A.P. "supplemental nutrition assistance program" "food stamp" W.I.C.</p> <p><u>NexisUni</u> “food assistance” OR SNAP OR “supplemental nutrition assistance program” OR (food /2 stamp!) OR WIC</p> <p><u>Congress.gov</u> “food assistance” OR SNAP OR “supplemental nutrition assistance program” OR “food stamp*” OR WIC</p>
<p><i>Marketing/Advertising to Children</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product placement and sponsorship • Package labeling • School bus ads • Internet advertising • Food marketing in schools 	<p><u>CapitolWatch</u> (market! advergaming target! or advertis! ads promotion "product placement" "internet advertising" commercial! "internet ad" media rebate "indirect advertising" "direct advertising" "corporate sponsor!</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy restaurant kids meals 	<p>incentive" contest!) /10 (children child kid youth school! Bus! "junk food" soda candy snack! food restaurant "sugar-sweetened drink" "sugar-sweetened beverage")</p> <p><u>NexisUni</u> (market! OR advertis! OR (product /2 placement) OR "internet ad" OR "media rebate" OR (corporate /2 sponsor! /2 incentive)) OR menu /p (child! OR bus! OR "junk food" OR soda OR candy OR snack! OR food OR restaurant)</p> <p><u>Congress.gov</u> (Market* or advertis* OR "product placement"~5 OR "internet ad*" OR "media rebate" OR "corporate sponsor incentive"~6 OR menu) AND (child* OR bus OR "junk food" OR soda OR candy OR snack* OR food OR restaurant)</p>
<p><i>Obesity</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General obesity • Trans fats • Nutrition and Physical activity • Menu labeling • Task forces/councils • Built Environment, related to adult physical activity • Councils and task forces • Lawsuits/personal responsibility (add old bills) 	<p><u>CapitolWatch</u> ("Obesogenic environment" obesity over-weight "childhood obesity" "health disparit!" "public health" health! calories fat! trans-fat "type-2 diabetes") /100 ("obesity prevention" "junk food tax" (food snack soda /2 tax) diet "processed food")</p> <p>("artificial trans-fat" trans-fat "containing trans-fat" "containing trans-fat" "partially hydrogenated vegetable oil" hydrogenation Hydrogenization hydrogenized margarine butter greas! Shortening oil! "fried in oil") and ("public school" school! scholastic education! "pupil" student restaurant establishment eatery cafeteria diner "fast food" F.D.A. "Food and Drug Administration" "original sealed</p>

		<p>package!" "food facility!" "food preparation" "food additive")</p> <p>("menu label!" label! "nutrition! label!" "nutrition! information" health "National Labeling and Education Act" or N.L.E.A.) /100 ("chain restaurant" restaurant "fast food restaurant" "fast food" dining diner eatery cafeteria establishment) /100 ("menu board" menu "drive thru" "drive through")</p> <p><u>NexisUni</u> "obesogenic environment OR obesity OR overweight OR (health /2 disparit!) OR "public health" OR diabet!) /p ("trans fat" OR (hydrogenated /5 oil) OR "fried in oil" OR "processed food")</p> <p>((label /2 (menu OR nutrition)) OR "nutrition information" OR "National Labeling and Education Act" OR NLEA) /p (restaurant OR "fast food" OR eatery OR cafeteria OR "drive thru" OR "drive through")</p> <p><u>Congress.gov</u> (Obes* OR overweight OR "health dispar*"~3 OR "public health" OR diabetes) AND ("trans fat" OR "hydrogenated oil"~2 OR "fried in oil" OR "processed food")</p> <p>("menu label" OR "nutrition label" OR "nutrition information" OR "National Labeling and Education Act" OR NLEA) AND (restaurant OR "fast food" OR eatery OR cafeteria OR "drive thr*")</p>
<i>Preemption</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State preemption of local authority 	<p><u>CapitolWatch</u> (pre-empt! Superseded! "occupy the field" "shall be consistent with")</p>

		<p>“uniform state standard” “relating to the authority of counties and municipalities” “shall not be regulated by any county” “more restrictive than” “sole authority” “no more stringent than”) AND (TOPICAL SEARCH STRING)</p> <p><u>Nexis Uni</u> <pre>(pre-empt! OR superseded! OR "occupy the field" OR "shall be consistent with" OR "uniform state standard" OR "relating to the authority of counties and municipalities" OR "shall not be regulated by any county" OR (no /2 more /2 stringent /2 than) OR (sole /2 authority)) AND (TOPICAL SEARCH STRING)</pre></p> <p><u>Congress.gov</u> <pre>(Preempt* OR supersed* OR "occupy the field" OR "shall be consistent with" OR "uniform state standard" OR "relating to the authority of counties and municipalities" OR "shall not be regulated by any county" OR "more restrictive than" OR "sole authority" OR "no more stringent than") AND (TOPICAL SEARCH STRING)</pre></p>
<p><i>Preschool Nutrition</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool nutrition 	<p><u>CapitolWatch</u> <pre>(obesity obese over-weight "early childhood obesity" nutrition "pre-school nutrition standard" "competitive food" "dietary guideline") /50 (pre-school "after-school care" day-care "head start" "Child and Adult Care Food Program" C.A.C.F.P.)</pre></p> <p><u>NexisUni</u> <pre>(obesity OR obese OR over-weight OR "early childhood obesity" OR</pre></p>

		<p>nutrition OR "pre-school nutrition standard" OR "competitive food" OR "dietary guideline") AND (pre-school OR "after-school day care" OR "head start" OR "Child and Adult Care Food Program" OR CACFP)</p> <p>Congress.gov (obes* OR overweight OR "early childhood obesity" OR nutrition" OR "preschool nutrition standard" OR "competitive food" OR "dietary guideline*") AND (preschool OR "after school care" OR daycare OR "head start" OR "Child and Adult Care Food Program" OR CACFP)</p>
<p><i>Sugary Drinks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sugar-sweetened beverages/taxes • Healthy restaurant kids meals/drinks • Restrictions on beverage sales 	<p>CapitolWatch ((soda "soft drink" syrup snack! "sugar-sweetened beverage" vending "vending machine" candy confection! "sugar-loaded beverage" "sugary beverage" "energy drink" "sports drink" "fruit juice" "fruit drink" "sweetened tea" "vitamin water" concentrate bottler "obesity fund" "childhood obesity" "obesity prevention fund" "childhood obesity prevention fund" "health promotion fund") /10 tax!) caloric sweetener "soda tax"</p> <p>NexisUni (soda OR "soft drink" OR syrup OR snack! OR (sugar /2 sweetened /2 beverage) OR (sugar! /2 drink) OR (sport! /2 drink) OR "fruit juice" OR "sweetened tea" OR "vitamin water") /p (tax! OR sale! OR fund!) OR ((label /2 (menu OR nutrition)) OR "nutrition information")</p> <p>Congress.gov (soda OR "soft drink" OR syrup OR snack* OR "sugar sweetened</p>

		<p>beverage*~4 OR "sugar* drink" OR "sport drink" OR "fruit juice" OR "sweetened tea" OR "vitamin water") AND (tax* OR sale* OR fund* OR "menu" OR "nutrition label"~5 OR "nutrition information")</p>
<p><i>School Wellness</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junk food in schools • School meal nutrition • Physical activity in schools • Water access in schools • Lunch shaming • BMI screening, children 	<p><u>CapitolWatch</u> ("HEALTH EDUCATION" "PHYSICAL EDUCATION" P.E. "GYM" EXERCISE FITNESS) /50 (SCHOOL! SCHOLASTIC EDUCATION! CURRICULUM ACADEMIC "physical activity") /50 (GRANT FUND! MONEY PAY PAYMENT PAID)</p> <p>(school! Education! scholastic) /200 (vend! a-la-carte store! Fund! Lunch!) /100 (beverage! Drink! Snack! Cand! Food! soda juice! Water!) /200 (health! Nutria! Standard! Guid! Maximum! Base! Limit!) /100 (sugar! Fat! Salt! Sodium carbo! Calor! Sweet! Portion! Package! Size! Bottle! Carton! "energy drink")</p> <p>("National School Lunch Program" N.S.L.P. "coordinated school health program") (school! /20 meal! Lunch! Breakfast nutri! "breakfast program" low-income)</p> <p><u>NexisUni</u> Child! AND ((health /2 education) OR (physical /2 education) OR gym OR exercise OR fitness) AND (school OR scholastic OR education OR curriculum OR academic)</p> <p>"national school lunch program" OR NSLP OR "coordinated school health program") OR (school /2</p>

		<p>meal) OR (lunch OR breakfast OR nutri! AND low-income)</p> <p>Congress.gov Child* AND (“health education” OR “physical education” OR gym OR exercise OR fitness) AND (school OR scholastic OR education OR curriculum OR academic)</p> <p>“National school lunch program” OR NSLP OR “coordinated school health program” OR “school meal”~5 OR lunch OR breakfast OR “low-income nutrition” ~10</p>
<p><i>Weight Bias</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight bias, stigma • Bullying • Discrimination 	<p>CapitolWatch ("WEIGHT BIAS" "WEIGHT STIGMA" "WEIGHT DISCRIMINATION" WEIGHT-TEASING WEIGHT OBESE OBESITY OVER-WEIGHT) /10 (BULLY! HARASS! INTIMIDAT! ABUSE "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT" A.D.A. DISCRIMIN! "ANTI-DISCRIMIN!" "BODY SIZE" "HEIGHT DISCRIMINATION" child! "school bullying") (WEIGHT OBESE OBESITY OVER-WEIGHT) /10 (HEALTH-CARE EMPLOY! APPLICA! APPLY)</p> <p>NexisUni weight /2 ((bias OR stigma OR discrimination OR teasing) OR (bully! OR harass! OR intimidat! OR abuse))</p> <p>Congress.gov “weight bias”~10 OR “weight stigma” OR “weight discrimination”~10 OR (weight AND bully* OR harass* OR intimidat* OR abuse)</p>