

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Elena for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 136, Thune motion to proceed to the bill which provides \$69.5 billion in funding for Department of Homeland Security immigration and border enforcement agencies for FY 2026, including: \$22.6 billion for Customs and Border Protection; \$38.5 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and \$8.5 billion in additional funds to DHS for immigration enforcement. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted no.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 137, Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee with instructions to report the bill back in three session days with changes that safeguard the Department of Justice from partisan political influence, which may include prohibiting the use of funds for a so-called "anti-weaponization fund." Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 138, amendment No. 5452, Tillis motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Tillis amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which prohibits the attorney general from using appropriation funds to pay out claims as part of an "anti-weaponizing fund" and would instead provide \$1.7 billion for Justice Department anti-fraud enforcement activities. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted no.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 139, amendment No. 5512, Merkley motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Merkley amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which prohibits federal funds as well as private donations from being used for the construction of the East Wing modernization project without congressional authorization. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 140, on amendment No. 5514, the Reed motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Reed-Bennet amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which redirects \$62.1 billion from funds intended for immigration enforcement towards the Housing Department's HOME Investment Partnerships Program. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 141, Ossoff motion to commit the bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee with instructions to report it back with changes that would amend the False Claims Act to require the Department of Justice to establish a task force to conduct investigations into

health insurance companies that are found to routinely deny and delay patients' access to medically necessary care. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 142, on amendment No. 5535, Hassan motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Hassan amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which provides such sums as necessary for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program through September 30, 2029, to build 7 million homes. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 143, amendment No. 5556, Warner motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of Warner-Kelly amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which prohibits any Senate-confirmed head of another federal agency or department from being directed to perform the functions and duties of the director of National Intelligence in an acting capacity. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 144, amendment No. 5779, Graham motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Graham et al., amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which adds a provision to bar educational institutions that receive federal funding from allowing transgender women or girls to participate in athletics programs or activities designated for women or girls. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted no.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 145, amendment No. 5501, Hickenlooper motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Hickenlooper-Bennet amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment) which prohibits the use of federal funds to make prosecution-related payments to individuals who were convicted for certain crimes, including election interference, identity theft and official misconduct. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 146, amendment No. 5545, Kim motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Kim-Booker amendment (to Graham substitute amendment) which provides \$2 million to the Office of the Inspector General and Office of Detention Oversight to conduct, within one week of the bill's enactment, an unannounced inspection of the Delaney Hall Detention Facility in Newark, New Jersey; requires Congressional reports on facility conditions and recommendations on whether to pursue charges against immigration agents and other facility employees who responded to protests; and requires the Homeland Security Department to suspend contract payments to operate the facility until the department certifies that the facility's deficiencies have been adequately remediated. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 147, Warnock motion to commit the budget reconciliation bill to the Judiciary Committee with instructions to report the bill back within 3 days with changes that amend the provisions of law commonly referred to as the "False Claims Act" to require the Department of Justice to establish a task force to conduct investigations and make public findings and records relating to the causes of denial of Medicaid coverage to eligible beneficiaries. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 148, amendment No. 5451, Sanders motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Sanders amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which places reasonable limits on contributions to Super PACs which make independent expenditures. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 149, amendment No. 5485, Baldwin motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Baldwin amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which redirects \$14.3 billion in funds made available under the bill from Immigration and Customs Enforcement to be used by the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out low-income family child care programs. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 150, on amendment No. 5803, Booker motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Booker-Kim amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment) which redirects \$28.6 million of the funds in the bill to the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman; and prohibits using the funds to pay contractors or cooperating entities that violated law or detention standards or engaged in substantiated misconduct. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 151, amendment No. 5806, Lee motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Lee amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment) which requires individuals to provide proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections and to present photo identification in order to cast a ballot. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted no.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 152, amendment No. 5806, Durbin motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Durbin, et al., amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment) which redirects \$10 million provided in the bill for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to be used for the processing of renewal applications under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program; and prohibits the use of funds in the bill to

detain or deport individuals reasonably believed to be DACA recipients on the basis of immigration status. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 153, Wyden motion to commit the bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee with instructions to establish a task force to conduct investigations related to confidential drug pricing agreements entered into by a Federal agency and pharmaceutical manufacturer. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 154, amendment No. 5506, Hirono-Van Hollen amendment (to Graham substitute amendment), which redirects \$105 million in funding provided under the bill for each of fiscal years 2026 to 2029 for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to be used for youth mentoring programs in the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 155, amendment No. 5763, Peters amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment) which rescinds any unobligated funds made available under the fiscal 2025 budget reconciliation measure (PL 119-21) and returns the money to the U.S. Treasury to reduce the deficit. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 156, amendment No. 5813, Gallego amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which decreases funds appropriated to the Homeland Security Department by \$11 million and increases funding for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services by \$10 million for the processing of renewal applications under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 157, amendment No. 5808, Padilla amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which requires that at least \$300 million of the bill's funds provided for U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement be used for the implementation and deployment of body cameras for federal immigration agents. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 158, amendment No. 5457, Coons motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Coons amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment) which prohibits the use of taxpayer funds for settlement payments to individuals convicted of assaulting law enforcement officers at or around the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 159, amendment No. 5812, Cassidy motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Cassidy-

Van Hollen amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment) which provides \$100 million in the Justice Department's "anti weaponization fund" to pay law enforcement officers who suffered bodily or financial harm as a result of the Jan 6, 2021 events in the U.S. Capitol; prohibits payments from the fund to any other person; and offsets the funding by reducing funding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement by \$102 million. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 160, amendment No. 5463, Cortez Masto amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which redirects \$31 billion in funding from Immigration and Customs Enforcement to Justice Department local law enforcement hiring grant programs. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 161, amendment No. 5632, Van Hollen motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Van Hollen amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment), which prohibits payments from the Justice Department's "anti-weaponization fund" to pay individuals convicted of certain crimes, including assaulting a police officer, crimes against minors, and sexual assault. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 162, amendment No. 5740 Schiff motion to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the Schiff-Kelly-Slotkin amendment (to the Graham substitute amendment) which prohibits the authorization of funds to pay out a judgement award, settlement, or claim filed by the U.S. president or vice president for any cause of action arising on or after Jan. 20, 2025. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 163, passage of the bill which provides \$69.5 billion in funding for Department of Homeland Security immigration and border enforcement agencies for FY 2026, including: \$22.6 billion for Customs and Border Protection; \$38.5 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and \$8.5 billion in additional funds to DHS for immigration enforcement. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted no.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 164, Thune motion to proceed to the House message to accompany the bill which extends the surveillance authorities of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) through April 30, 2029. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 165, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 744, Anthony W. Mattivi, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas. If I were present, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 166, Confirmation of the nomi-

nation of Anthony W. Mattivi, of Kansas, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas. If I were present, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 167, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 745, Anthony J. Powell, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas. If I were present, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 168, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 745, Anthony J. Powell, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas. If I were present, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 169, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 765, Brock Dahl, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 170, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 765, Brock Dahl, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 171, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 742, Justin D. Smith, of Missouri, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit. If I were present, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 172, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 742, Justin D. Smith, of Missouri, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit. If I were present, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 173, Motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 190, disapproving the rule submitted by the Executive Office for Immigration Review relating to "Appellate Procedures for the Board of Immigration Appeals" (KAINE), I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 174, motion to discharge S.J. Res. 172, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 175, motion to proceed to consideration of the House Message to accompany H.R. 6644, 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 176, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 760, Michelle Steel, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 177, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 760, Michelle Steel, of

California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 178, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 763, George Holding, of North Carolina, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 179, motion to discharge S. Res. 616, a resolution requesting information on Honduras's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 180, motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the House Message to accompany H.R. 6644, 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, with further amendment (No. 5823). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 181, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 763, George Holding, of North Carolina, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 182, motion to concur in the House Message accompanying H.R. 6644, 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, today, I rise to pay tribute to the University of Georgia's School of Public and International Affairs on its landmark 25th anniversary. I also want to recognize its leadership, including founding dean Thomas P. Lauth, who served from 2001 to 2013; dean Stefanie Lindquist, from 2013 to 2016; interim dean Robert Grafstein, from 2016 to 2017; and current dean Matthew Auer, who has led the school since 2017. For a quarter-century, the School of Public and International Affairs has stood as a beacon of academic excellence, fostering rigorous scholarship and cultivating the next generation of leaders dedicated to public service.

The school has advanced the University of Georgia's core mission of teaching, research, and service by preparing students to shape policy and strengthen communities both locally and globally. Founded in 2001, the school has distinguished itself through an unwavering commitment to academic rigor, public impact, and global engagement. By offering highly regarded programs in political science, international af-

fairs, public administration and policy, and criminal justice, it equips students with the critical skills needed to address complex challenges at every level of government and within the private sector.

The University of Georgia's School of Public and International Affairs faculty comprises nationally and internationally recognized scholars whose research directly informs public policy and strengthens democratic institutions. Since its inception, the school has grown from 32 full-time faculty members and 1,000 students to more than 75 full-time faculty and over 2,000 students today. Demonstrating this profound commitment to academic excellence, alumni include 8 Truman Scholars, 7 Rhodes Scholars, 3 Schwarzman Scholars, 3 Pickering Fellows, and 36 Boren Scholars.

Furthermore, the school's global impact continues to earn well-deserved recognition. The Academic Ranking of World Universities placed it among the top 10 graduate schools worldwide for the public administration category. Additionally, U.S. News & World Report ranks the school fifth for Best Public Affairs Programs, third in Public Finance and Budgeting, third in Public Management and Leadership, fourth in Local Government Management, and 12th in Nonprofit Management.

On this 25th anniversary of the University of Georgia's School of Public and International Affairs, I want to congratulate and thank its faculty, staff, students, and alumni for their enduring contributions to public service, scholarship, and leadership.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson County in Pine Bluff, AR.

For eight decades, the Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson County has been a cornerstone of opportunity, mentorship, and hope for generations of young Arkansans. Since its founding, the organization has remained steadfast in its mission to inspire young people—especially those who need it most—to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

The Boys & Girls Club provides far more than an afterschool program. It offers a safe and supportive environment where youth can learn, grow, build confidence, and develop the skills necessary for success. Through programs focused on academic achievement, healthy lifestyles, and character development, the club helps shape future leaders while strengthening the broader community.

Today, the Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson County serves hundreds of fami-

lies in and around Pine Bluff, many of whom face significant economic and educational challenges. Under the leadership of CEO Tavante Calhoun, the organization continues to adapt to meet the evolving local needs. Through innovative partnerships with educational institutions, community groups, and area leaders, the club actively enhances lives and fills a key need.

Its vital works allows young people to discover new possibilities for their futures while connecting them with caring adults who provide guidance, encouragement, and support. Whether through tutoring programs that strengthen reading skills, hands-on STEM experiences that spark curiosity and creativity, or exposure to higher education and career pathways, the Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson County is investing in the next generation of Arkansans.

As the organization marks this important milestone, we also recognize the countless staff members, volunteers, community partners, parents, and alumni whose dedication has sustained its mission for 80 years. Their commitment has positively impacted thousands of young lives and helped ensure that children throughout Jefferson County have the opportunity to succeed.

On behalf of the people of Arkansas, I congratulate the Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson County on its 80th anniversary and wish them continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE JOHNSON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor to recognize Michelle Johnson as Montanan of the Month.

Michelle Johnson is a resident of Great Falls, MT, and has made tremendous impacts to the community over the years. Michelle serves as a counselor and PCMHI specialist in Great Falls. Prior to her career as a mental health specialist, Michelle served as a medical logistician helping veterans at the VA beginning in 2006 and rose to the role of noncommissioned officer-in-charge of medical contracting. While advancing her roles with the VA, Michelle simultaneously completed a master's degree in clinical health counseling.

Michelle has dedicated selfless hours of work to the veterans community in Montana. She has assisted hundreds of veterans with mental health recovery. She also established the VA's only Low Energy Neurofeedback System (LENS) Clinic, that has significantly contributed to improving PTSD and mental health recovery for veterans seeking treatment.

Michelle Johnson's service, innovation, compassion, and unwavering support to the veterans community is outstanding, and I commend her for her selfless contributions. Michelle embodies the meaning of service and the very best of Montana. It is my distinct honor to recognize Michelle Johnson as Montanan of the Month.●