



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Vermont Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program** ***Students Headed to Washington, D. C. and to Receive \$10,000 College Scholarship***

**January 12, 2026, Washington, D.C.** —The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) is pleased to announce that high school students Mr. Daniel Benedetto Mann and Ms. Quincy Anne Sabick will join Senator Bernie Sanders and Senator Peter Welch in representing Vermont during the 64th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 7 — 14, 2026.

Daniel Mann of Thetford Center and Quincy Sabick of Vergennes were selected from among the state's top student leaders. They will join the delegation of 104 outstanding high school students - two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity - for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it, meeting with Senators, the President, a Supreme Court Justice, and other high-level officials. Each delegate will also receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs.

### **About the 2026 USSYP Delegates:**

Daniel Mann, a senior at Thetford Academy, serves as a Representative on the Student Council. He grew up in Tucson, Arizona, where he attended a bilingual elementary school, spoke Spanish from an early age, and performed in a mariachi band. After moving to Vermont, he worked alongside immigrant farmworkers and later taught English as a second language to migrant workers, experiences that informed his advocacy for Vermont's immigrant communities and his interest in immigration and labor policy. Daniel has pursued these interests academically through dual-enrollment coursework at Dartmouth College focused on borderlands, migration, and public policy. At Thetford Academy, he also captains the soccer, track and field, and Speech and Debate teams, co-founded the Upper Valley Speech and Debate Camp for regional middle and high school students, and has previously served as Class President, Vice President, and Treasurer. He plans to continue studying immigration and public policy, building on the academic and civic work that has shaped his commitments. After studying economics and Latin American studies in college, he hopes to attend law school.

Quincy Sabick, a senior at Vergennes Union High School, serves as the School Board Student Representative. She served as a United States Senate Page sponsored by Senator Bernie Sanders in the summer of 2025. Locally, she has also been a lead member of her high school's Green Team Environmental Group and a Youth Representative on the Vermont Climate Council. She serves her community as Co-President of the Vergennes LEO's Club, associated with the local Lions' Club, where she has helped lead service projects such as refurbishing the local food shelf, vision screenings for elementary school students, and reading to young children. She attended the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and was elected the 81st Vermont Girls State Governor. In school, Quincy has been learning German throughout high school, earning a gold medal on the National German Exam her sophomore year and scoring in the 99th percentile nationwide. In college, she plans to major in public policy with a minor in German studies. Post-college plans include law school and a career in the field of environmental law.

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Chosen as alternates to the 2026 program were Mr. Jacoby Soter, a resident of Fairfax, who attends BFA St. Albans and Mr. McKinley Keaffaber, a resident of Bennington, who attends Mount Anthony High School.

Delegates and alternates are selected by the state departments of education, including the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activities, after nomination by teachers and principals. The chief state school officer for each jurisdiction confirms the final selection. This year's Vermont delegates and alternates were designated by Zoie Saunders, Secretary of Education.

### **About The United States Senate Youth Program**

The 2026 United States Senate Youth Program Co-Chairs are Senator Katie Britt of Alabama and Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts. The full USSYP Senate Advisory Committee consists of the Vice President of the United States and the Senate Majority and Minority leaders who annually serve as the program's Honorary Co-Chairs; two senators, one from each party, serving as acting Co-Chairs who each have keynote speaking roles, and an eight-member bipartisan senate panel, four senators from each party, who lend their names in support. Serving on the Advisory Committee for the upcoming program are: Senator John Barrasso, M.D. of Wyoming, Senator Steve Daines of Montana, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi, Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, Senator Andy Kim of New Jersey, Senator Angus S. King, Jr. of Maine, and Senator Elissa Slotkin of Michigan.

The USSYP is a competitive, merit-based program created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 by the sons of William Randolph Hearst and the Senate leadership of the day - Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen, and Humphrey. The USSYP is designed to encourage America's most talented young people to consider public service as an important, life-long, and noble pursuit. Senate Resolution 324 passed unanimously.

The Hearst Foundations have fully funded the program since inception, as stipulated in SR 324, no government funds are utilized.

USSYP alumni now number more than 6,300 and many go on to build legacies of public service. The distinguished alumni include Senator Susan Collins, the first USSYP delegate to be elected U.S. Senator; former Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, the first to be appointed as a Cabinet Secretary; Representative Sarah McBride, the second to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; former Senator Cory Gardner, the second alumnus to be elected U.S. Senator and the first to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first to be elected Governor.

**For more information, please visit [ussenateyouth.org](https://ussenateyouth.org)**

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