

Sydney Ebach, ND – 2022

Washington Week was such a transformative experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. It was enlightening to interact with my fellow delegates representing each part of this great Union, as well as some of our nation's leaders.

The military mentor groups were a great way to get to know the U.S. in a way I hadn't before. My fellow delegates brought forth their culture, their intelligence, and their curiosity to the discussions and that made it all the more enriching. I so appreciate the time and dedication of the speakers to speak to us and field our difficult questions. Even though we could not attend in person, the welcome boxes and virtual tours certainly helped to bridge the gap. Outside of Washington Week, the meetings with my Senators were a great way to more intimately know the leaders representing me and my community. Lastly, the contacts and relationships I have gained from this experience will transcend Washington Week and hopefully help develop my career.

The United States Senate Youth Program has certainly opened up a gateway of new possibilities for my future. I had never fully considered what a life in American politics would look like until Washington Week. I appreciated the glimpse into all the different branches and supporting areas of the U.S. government.

My favorite area was the Judicial Branch and the lineup of incredibly impactful speakers we were privileged to speak to. Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta and Justice Anthony Kennedy were remarkable. I loved being able to experience how their minds work and how they use their backgrounds to make informed decisions. Secretary Pete Buttigieg was the best, in my opinion, to witness the gears turning as he processed the questions. He managed to take a seemingly simple problem and break down the situation to show how both the economy and ethics play into a fair decision.

Washington Week will forever be a highlight I can look back upon. I am truly excited to watch how my fellow delegates will shape the world, and how I can use this experience to shape my future.