

# Rhetoric vs. Real Service

## **A Report on Senator Roy Blunt's True National Security Record**

Senator Blunt talks tough on national security, but his record tells a different story. Whether it's opposing important national security tools, supporting programs that weaken those efforts, or just missing votes altogether, Senator Blunt time and time again has shown that his words are stronger than his actions. Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander, on the other hand, has a record of real service to our country in Afghanistan as an Army Intelligence Officer. Jason understands the dangerous threats our country faces because he has seen them first hand. Unlike Senator Blunt, Jason believes now is the time to give the military and our intelligence agencies more tools to fight terrorism - not weaken them because it's politically easier.

# Visa Waiver Program

**In September, Senator Blunt cosponsored a bill that would expand the visa waiver program, which currently allows tourists from 38 countries to travel to the United States without a visa, despite fears the program could allow potential terrorists easy entry into the country. In the wake of the Paris terrorist attacks, Senator Blunt defended his support of the expansion of the visa waiver program and opposed a bipartisan effort to strengthen security screenings done by the program.**

## What Senator Blunt Says

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“If someone put 100 grapes on a table and said, ‘By the way - one of these is poison, just go ahead and have at them.’ Who do you think would eat the grapes? You don’t have to have a very big margin of error here.”

- Senator Blunt to KY3, 11/23/2015

## What Senator Blunt Does

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- Senator Blunt continued to support his legislation that would expand the visa waiver program in the wake of the Paris terrorist attacks, even after members of both parties expressed their concern.
- From The Hill: “House Armed Services Committee Vice Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) said Friday that as many as 3,000 members of ISIS have U.S. or European passports and could slip into America undetected. ‘The biggest fear is that there are 10,000 to 12,000 foreign fighters that have joined ISIS and various estimates but many of them have Western passports,’ Thornberry said.”
- Senator Blunt opposed bipartisan legislation to strengthen security screenings in the visa waiver program that would require program participants to submit biometric information and require in-person interviews of anyone who had traveled to Syria or Iraq before entering the United States.
- Senator Blunt has taken \$357,215 from the lodging/tourism industry over the course of his political career, the industry that is pushing Blunt’s legislation to expand the visa waiver program. Senator Blunt is a top-10 national recipient of campaign contributions from the lodging/tourism industry, making the list alongside six presidential candidates, two California governors, and Senator Harry Reid.

## Background

September 2015: Blunt Cosponsored Bill To Expand Visa Waiver Program Despite Fears The Program Could Allow Potential Terrorists Easy Entry Into The Country. “Lawmakers in the Senate are moving to expand a visa program that allows for easy entry into the United States for people with Western passports, despite fears about potential terrorist attacks that have been raised.” [The Hill, 9/30/15; S. 2091, 9/29/15]

Blunt Opposed Bipartisan Legislation To Strengthen Security Screenings In The Visa Waiver Program That Would Require Program Participants Submit Biometric Information And Require In-Person Interviews Of Anyone Who Had Traveled To Syria Or Iraq Before Entering The United States. [Springfield News-Leader, 12/5/15]

House Armed Services Committee Vice Chairman Mac Thornberry Warned That Thousands Of Potential ISIS Members Held U.S. Or European Passports. “House Armed Services Committee Vice Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) said Friday that as many as 3,000 members of ISIS have U.S. or European passports and could slip into America undetected. ‘The biggest fear is that there are 10,000 to 12,000 foreign fighters that have joined ISIS and various estimates but many of them have Western passports,’ Thornberry said on CNN.” [The Hill, 8/24/14]

Senator Blunt Is A Top Ten National Recipient Of Campaign Contributions From The Lodging/Tourism Industry, Making The Top Ten List Alongside Six Presidential Candidates, Two California Governors, And Harry Reid. [Influence Explorer, accessed 12/7/15]

# Senate Armed Services Committee

In 2013 and 2014, Senator Blunt served on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Missouri was one of just two states to have both of their Senators on that committee. Not only is the committee vital to our national security, Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base are critical to both the security of our country and the economy of Missouri. With two members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Missouri had almost unrivaled political clout to protect the bases from harmful budget cuts. This year, Senator Blunt chose his political career over the people of Missouri when he voluntarily left the committee and became Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. The Rules Committee oversees Senate administration. The decision to prioritize chairing the Rules Committee over serving on the Armed Services Committee shows that Senator Blunt is more concerned with advancing his political career than fighting for the needs of Missourians.

## What Senator Blunt Says

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“I’ve enjoyed my time in both the House and the Senate serving as a member of the Intelligence Committee, but this is an important time for members of the military in Missouri and around the world.”

- Senator Blunt on being appointed to the Senate Armed Services Committee, via official press release, 01/03/2013

## What Senator Blunt Does

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- In 2015, Senator Blunt voluntarily left the Armed Services Committee. Before he left Armed Services, Missouri and New Hampshire were the only states that had both senators as members of the committee.
- From the Springfield News-Leader: “At the start of the 114th Congress, Sen. Roy Blunt snagged a committee chairmanship - the first time he has led a congressional committee in his 18 years in Washington. But Blunt’s new Senate perch doesn’t carry the kind of clout or power most lawmakers envision when they reach for the gavel. Blunt is chairman of the Rules Committee, which oversees the Senate’s inner workings. In essence, the chairmanship has made the Missouri Republican the de facto mayor of the upper chamber.”
- More from the Springfield News-Leader: “It’s nothing like other Senate committees in terms of its power. ... His Senate colleagues have pestered him about getting nicer office digs. The media has asked him about reports that several Capitol Police officers recently lost track of their guns. The Senate’s food service workers are pushing for a pay increase...”

## Background

Blunt Touted His Appointment To The Senate Armed Services Committee, Said It Was “An Important Time For Members Of The Military In Missouri And Around The World” And That The Committee Was Faced With “Critical Work.” “U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.) announced today that he will serve as a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, which has jurisdiction over the study and review of matters relating to the nation’s defense policies. . . ‘I’ve enjoyed my time in both the House and the Senate serving as a member of the Intelligence Committee, but this is an important time for members of the military in Missouri and around the world,’ Blunt continued. ‘I look forward to starting the critical work facing the Senate Armed Services Committee.’” [Office of Senator Blunt Press Release, 1/3/13]

As Chairman Of The Senate Rules Committee, Blunt Was “The De Facto Mayor Of The Upper Chamber.” “At the start of the 114th Congress, Sen. Roy Blunt snagged a committee chairmanship — the first time he has led a congressional committee in his 18 years in Washington. But Blunt’s new Senate perch doesn’t carry the kind of clout or power most lawmakers envision when they reach for the gavel. Blunt is chairman of the Rules Committee, which oversees the Senate’s inner workings. In essence, the chairmanship has made the Missouri Republican the de facto mayor of the upper chamber.” [Springfield News-Leader, 5/31/15]

113th Congress: New Hampshire And Missouri Were The Only States To Be Represented By Two Senators On The Senate Armed Services Committee. [Senate Armed Services Committee, Committee Members, 113th Congress]

# Patriot Act

In September 2015, Senator Blunt gave a speech at Westminster College in Fulton focused on national security. During his remarks, Senator Blunt said even though the United States is facing threats “more prevalent, more complex and potentially more catastrophic than ever before” laws meant to combat those threats, such as the Patriot Act, should be allowed to expire. It is deeply distressing that a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, who has repeatedly stressed the dangers our country faces every day, could suggest that we could let the Patriot Act, a critical tool in our fight against terrorism, expire.

## What Senator Blunt Says

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“The last year or so, has been the worst in terms of just the constant bad news of more threats from more places than ever before.”

- Senator Blunt to the St. Louis Post Dispatch, 11/17/2015

## What Senator Blunt Does

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- From the Columbia Missourian: “Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Missouri, spoke at Westminster College in Fulton on Monday and warned that threats facing the United States are ‘more prevalent, more complex and potentially more catastrophic than ever before.’ He also said laws intended to fight those threats should eventually expire, particularly the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and the Patriot Act.”
- In May 2011, Blunt missed a vote “to proceed to the bill that would extend through June 1, 2015, three provisions of the anti-terrorism law known as the Patriot Act.” It was a 74-8 vote.

## Background

Blunt: United States Is Facing Threats “More Prevalent, More Complex And Potentially More Catastrophic Than Ever Before,” But Laws Meant To Combat Those Threats Like FISA And The Patriot Act Should Expire. “Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Missouri, spoke at Westminster College in Fulton on Monday and warned that threats facing the United States are ‘more prevalent, more complex and potentially more catastrophic than ever before.’ He also said laws intended to fight those threats should eventually expire, particularly the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and the Patriot Act.” [Columbia Missourian, 9/14/15]

Blunt Did Not Vote On A Motion To End Debate On Extending Three Provisions Of The Patriot Act. In May 2011, Blunt did not vote on: “Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the bill that would extend through June 1, 2015, three provisions of the anti-terrorism law known as the Patriot Act.” The motion was agreed to 74-8. [CQ, 11/3/15; S. 1038, Vote 75, 5/23/11]

Blunt Did Not Vote On A Motion To Kill The Bill That Would Extend Three Provisions Of The Patriot Act. In May 2011, Blunt did not vote on: “Reid, D-Nev., motion to table (kill) the Reid motion to proceed to the bill that would extend through June 1, 2015, three provisions of the anti-terrorism law known as the Patriot Act.” The motion was agreed to 74-13. [CQ, 11/3/15; S. 1038, Vote 76, 5/24/11]

# Homeland Security Shutdown

At the beginning of 2015, Senator Blunt recklessly played partisan politics with funding for the Department of Homeland Security. He spearheaded a plan that would have put our nation at risk by shutting down the Department of Homeland Security to score political points with his party. Previously, Senator Blunt supported a 2013 continuing resolution that would have cut \$1.3 million in funding from homeland security operations in Missouri.

## What Senator Blunt Says

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“This is the most dangerous time that the United States has faced in terms of the multiplicity of threats and lack of our ability to keep track of all of them all in a way that all of us are happy about.”

- Senator Blunt to the Fulton Sun, 9/15/15

## What Senator Blunt Does

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- In February 2015, Senator Blunt voted against a bill that would provide \$47.8 billion in fiscal 2015 for the Homeland Security Department and related activities. The bill included \$12.6 billion for Customs and Border Protection; \$6 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and \$7.2 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, among other funding.
- As Gannett News Service wrote, “Some Republicans say homeland security spending is too important to use as leverage on immigration... With money set to run out at midnight, the federal agency in charge of protecting the nation from terrorism will partially shut down unless Republicans find a last-minute way to break the impasse.”
- Senator Blunt voted for a Republican spending bill that would have made Missouri less safe by cutting homeland security in the state by \$1.3 million.

## Background

Blunt Voted Against A Bill Providing \$47.8 Billion In FY2015 For The Homeland Security Department And Related Activities. In February 2015, Blunt voted against: “Passage of the bill that would provide \$47.8 billion in fiscal 2015 for the Homeland Security Department and related activities. The bill would include \$12.6 billion for Customs and Border Protection; \$6 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement; \$7.2 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, including fees; \$10 billion for the Coast Guard; \$1.7 billion for the Secret Service; and \$10.8 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including \$6.4 billion for emergency disaster relief.” The bill passed by a 68-31 vote. [CQ, 2/27/15; H.R. 240, Vote 62, 2/27/15]

The Department In Charge Of Protecting The U.S. From Terrorism Would Shut Down Without A Funding Bill. “On Friday, the GOP split resulted in a stalemate over a bill to renew funding for the Homeland Security agency. Some Republicans say homeland security spending is too important to use as leverage on immigration. Others say the move is necessary to counter Obama’s executive overreach. With money set to run out at midnight, the federal agency in charge of protecting the nation from terrorism will partially shut down unless Republicans find a last-minute way to break the impasse.” [Gannett News Service, 2/27/15]

Bill Cut Homeland Security Investments In Missouri By More Than \$1.3 Million. “H.R. 1 reduces Missouri’s homeland security investments by more than \$1,300,000, hurting local law enforcement’s ability to keep Missouri families safe.” [Democratic Policy and Communications Center, Accessed 8/5/15]

# Voting Record

**On national security issues, Senator Blunt has a disastrous voting record and has too often been a no-show for Missourians in the Senate.**

**Early this year, Senator Blunt made a top-10 list of Senators missing the most votes. During his tenure, he has missed key votes on reauthorizing the Patriot Act, funding for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, and on confirmation of Homeland Security Director Jeh Johnson. While serving on the Armed Services Committee, Senator Blunt frequently failed to do his job. According to public attendance records, he was present at just 34% of the hearings of the committee, skipping critical hearings on ISIS, Syria, and current and future worldwide threats.**

## What Senator Blunt Says

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“This is by far the most dangerous time that I have seen in terms of potential attacks around the world and in our country.”  
- Senator Blunt to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 5/6/15

## What Senator Blunt Does

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- Senator Blunt missed the September 2014 hearing on “U.S. Policy Towards Iraq and Syria and the Threat Posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).”
- According to public attendance records, in 2014 Senator Blunt was present at just 8 out of 34, or 23%, of Senate Armed Services Committee hearings. The year before he attended just 43% of the hearings.
- Senator Blunt missed the April 2013 and February 2014 “Current and Future Worldwide Threats” hearings.
- Senator Blunt missed the vote to confirm Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and was one of only five Senators to vote against the confirmation of Secretary of Defense Ash Carter.

## Background

**Blunt Missed Hearing On U.S. Policy Toward Iraq, Syria, And ISIS.** Blunt missed the September 2014 U.S. Policy Towards Iraq and Syria and the Threat Posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) hearing. [U.S. Policy Towards Iraq and Syria and the Threat Posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), 9/16/14]

**In 2013, Blunt Attended 43% Of Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings.** According to public attendance records, Blunt was present at just 17 out of 39, or 43% of Senate Armed Services Committee hearings in 2013. [Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings, January 31, 2013 – November 7, 2013]. In 2014, Blunt Attended 23% Of Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings. According to public attendance records, Blunt was present at just 8 out of 34, or 23% of Senate Armed Services Committee hearings in 2014. [Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings, January 16th, 2014 – December 12, 2014]

**Blunt Missed Hearing On Current And Future Worldwide Threats.** Blunt missed the April 2013 Current and Future Worldwide Threats hearing. [Current and Future Worldwide Threats, 4/18/13]. **Blunt Missed Hearing On Current And Future Worldwide Threats.** Blunt missed the February 2014 Current and Future Worldwide Threats hearing. [Current and Future Worldwide Threats, 2/11/14]

**Blunt Did Not Vote On The Confirmation Of Jeh Johnson To Be Secretary Of The Homeland Security Department.** In December 2013, Blunt did not vote on: “Confirmation of President Barack Obama’s nomination of Jeh Charles Johnson of New Jersey to be secretary of the Homeland Security Department.” Johnson was confirmed 78-16. [CQ, 11/3/15; PN 925, Vote 276, 12/16/13]. Blunt Voted Against The Nomination Of Ash Carter For Defense Secretary. “Voting against the nomination were Republican Sens. Roy Blunt of Missouri, Mike Crapo and Jim Risch of Idaho, Mark Kirk of Illinois and John Boozman of Arkansas.” [Associated Press, 2/12/15]

# Jason Kander

**Jason served as a military intelligence officer in Afghanistan, investigating groups and individuals suspected of corruption, espionage, drug trafficking, and facilitating Al Qaeda and the Taliban. Jason's commanders described him as an "outstanding leader" and the Afghan Intelligence Watch Commander said Jason's "hard work directly resulted in arresting enemies and saving lives." After his deployment, Jason came home to Missouri, becoming a leadership instructor in the Missouri Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School at Fort Leonard Wood, where he trained hundreds of soldiers to lead troops into combat.**



## Jason's Deployment to Afghanistan

In October 2006, Jason deployed to Afghanistan to serve as a military intelligence officer investigating groups and individuals suspected of corruption, espionage, drug trafficking, and facilitating Al Qaeda and the Taliban. While serving in Afghanistan, Jason was tasked with developing Afghan government sources in order to monitor the stability, effectiveness, and strength of the government of Afghanistan. He collected, analyzed, and communicated information regarding military and political threats to Afghan democracy. This role required him to spend some of his time outside "the wire" – occasionally dressed in street clothes or accompanied only by a translator – while also placing him in a position to directly advise the U.S. Director of Intelligence in Afghanistan regarding a variety of issues and people within the Afghan government.

In unclassified assessments of his performance, Jason's commanders described him as a "superb intelligence officer" who exceeded his regular duties by personally collecting vital intelligence that, according to the Afghan Intelligence Watch Commander, "directly resulted in arresting enemies and saving lives." Jason investigated corruption at the highest levels of the Afghan government and advised his superiors regarding removal of corrupt government officials. Called an "outstanding leader" and "one of the very best junior officers I have worked with in my military career," he was one of the only officers who, "leading by example, volunteered as a shooter on several convoys."

The U.S. Director of Intelligence in Afghanistan advised the Army to "track this officer's career closely; he is one of the best." Jason's commanders in Afghanistan also recommended that the Army assign him as an Officer Candidate School Instructor in order to take advantage of his leadership skills and allow him to "directly affect the development of future military leaders."

## Military Service (2002–2011)

- 2002: Enrolled in Army ROTC when he started law school
- 2003: Enlisted in the 1-115th Infantry Battalion of the Army National Guard
- 2005: Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve assigned to the military intelligence corps
- November 2005: Served on active duty at Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, Arizona. It was here that he volunteered for a deployment to a combat zone
- July 2006: Reported to U.S. Central Command's Intelligence Division at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. Holding a Top Secret security clearance, Jason conducted intelligence analysis in support of operations in Afghanistan
- October 2006: Deployed to Afghanistan as a Military Intelligence Officer
- February 2007: Returned to reserve unit at Fort Leavenworth before transferring to the Missouri Army National Guard to accept an assignment as a Platoon Trainer at the Officer Candidate School at Fort Leonard Wood
- 2010: Selected one of 10 finalists for the Army Reserve Junior Officer of the Year Award by the Reserve Officer Association for his service both in Afghanistan and at Fort Leonard Wood

# Appendix

BLUNT SERVED ON SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IN 2013 AND 2014...

Blunt Served On Senate Armed Services Committee In 113th Congress From 2013- 2014. [Senator Roy Blunt, Committee Assignments, Wayback Machine 2/19/13]

Blunt Touted His Appointment To The Senate Armed Services Committee, Said It Was “An Important Time For Members Of The Military In Missouri And Around The World” And That The Committee Was Faced With “Critical Work.” “U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.) announced today that he will serve as a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, which has jurisdiction over the study and review of matters relating to the nation’s defense policies... ‘The Senate Armed Services Committee will be faced with a number of critical challenges and responsibilities this year, including dealing with the sequestration cuts. We must rein in Washington’s out-of-control spending, but those cuts should be targeted in a way that does not jeopardize our national security or military readiness,’ said Blunt. ‘I’ve enjoyed my time in both the House and the Senate serving as a member of the Intelligence Committee, but this is an important time for members of the military in Missouri and around the world,’ Blunt continued. ‘I look forward to starting the critical work facing the Senate Armed Services Committee.’” [Office of Senator Blunt Press Release, 1/3/13]

... BUT VOLUNTARILY LEFT IN 2015 WHEN HE BECAME CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE IN A BID TO INCREASE HIS POLITICAL STANDING IN THE SENATE

January 2015: Blunt Was Chosen To Chair Senate Rules Committee And Left The Senate Armed Services Committee. [Office of Senator Blunt press release, 1/8/15]

As Chairman Of The Senate Rules Committee, Blunt Was “The De Facto Mayor Of The Upper Chamber.” “At the start of the 114th Congress, Sen. Roy Blunt snagged a committee chairmanship — the first time he has led a congressional committee in his 18 years in Washington. But Blunt’s new Senate perch doesn’t carry the kind of clout or power most lawmakers envision when they reach for the gavel. Blunt is chairman of the Rules Committee, which oversees the Senate’s inner workings. In essence, the chairmanship has made the Missouri Republican the de facto mayor of the upper chamber.” [Springfield News-Leader, 5/31/15]

The Rules Committee “Can Be Useful In Building A Career Path In The Senate,” As Evidenced By Leader McConnell. “Other lawmakers have used the committee to build support for a move up the Senate leadership ladder, including current Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. ‘It’s nothing like other Senate committees in terms of its power,’ said Smith, the political science professor. But ‘you can gain a reputation for being effective and responsible, and that can be useful in building a career path in the Senate.’” [Springfield News-Leader, 5/31/15]

MISSOURI WAS ONE OF JUST TWO STATES REPRESENTED BY TWO SENATORS ON THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

1113th Congress: New Hampshire And Missouri Were The Only States To Be Represented By Two Senators On The Senate Armed Services Committee. [Senate Armed Services Committee, Committee Members, 113TH Congress]

SEPTEMBER 2015: BLUNT COSPONSORED A BILL TO EXPAND THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM DESPITE FEARS IT COULD ALLOW EASY ENTRY FOR POTENTIAL TERRORISTS

September 2015: Blunt Cosponsored Bill To Expand Visa Waiver Program Despite Fears The Program Could Allow Potential Terrorists Easy Entry Into The Country. “Lawmakers in the Senate are moving to expand a visa program that allows for easy entry into the United States for people with Western passports, despite fears about potential terrorist attacks that have been raised. Sens. Charles Schum-



er (D-N.Y.), Dean Heller (R-Nev.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Mike Lee (R-Utah) have introduced a measure that would expand the State Department's Visa Waiver Program (VWP), which currently allows tourists from 38 nations to visit the U.S. without obtaining a visa. The measure is known as the Jobs Originated Through Launching Travel (JOLT) Act. Some lawmakers have raised concerns that members of terrorist groups, like the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), could try to exploit the VWP if they have access to travel documents from friendly nations." [The Hill, 9/30/15; S. 2091, 9/29/15]

#### SOME OF BLUNT'S SENATE AND HOUSE COLLEAGUES FEARED EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM COULD JEOPARDIZE NATIONAL SECURITY

House Armed Services Committee Vice Chairman Mac Thornberry Warned That Thousands Of Potential ISIS Members Held U.S. Or European Passports. "House Armed Services Committee Vice Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) said Friday that as many as 3,000 members of ISIS have U.S. or European passports and could slip into America undetected. 'The biggest fear is that there are 10,000 to 12,000 foreign fighters that have joined ISIS and various estimates but many of them have Western passports,' Thornberry said on CNN. 'They're either American or they're Western European passports. So they can come here to the United States homeland without a visa. And they can bring ... what they've learned about bomb-making and about assassinations with them here at home.'" [The Hill, 8/24/14]

- Thornberry: "It Only Takes A Handful" Of Western Passport Holders "As We Saw On 9/11, To Do Enormous Damage." "But Thornberry said the presence of western passport holders in ISIS should prompt lawmakers to take a fresh look at the program. 'We know they don't hesitate to kill people,' he said. 'And it's not just individuals. They don't hesitate to kill hundreds or thousands of people. And so I have no doubt they are planning on how they can do that here at home in the United States and in Western Europe. 'The numbers vary,' Thornberry continued. 'I don't know the exact number, 2,000 to 3,000, say, have Western passports. It only takes a handful, as we saw on 9/11, to do enormous damage.'" [The Hill, 8/24/14]

Senator Ron Johnson: "The Recent Terrorist Attacks In Paris, Brussels And Copenhagen [...] Remind Us Of The Importance Of Constantly Assessing Trusted Travel Programs To Address Potential Vulnerabilities." "Tourism advocates have pushed for the expansion of the VWP before, but lawmakers raised questions in recent years about the possibility of terrorists gaining access to flights to the U.S. by using travel documents from nations whose tourists are cleared for visa-free entry into domestic airports. 'The recent terrorist attacks in Paris, Brussels and Copenhagen, as well as the more than 3,400 Western foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq, remind us of the importance of constantly assessing trusted traveler programs to address potential vulnerabilities,' said Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee chairman, during a hearing in March." [The Hill, 9/30/15]

#### DECEMBER 2015: BLUNT CONTINUED TO SUPPORT EXPANSION OF THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM AFTER THE NOVEMBER 2015 PARIS ATTACKS

December 2015: Blunt Supported Expansion Of The Visa Waiver Program In The Wake Of The Paris Terrorist Attacks. "Amid fresh fears of terrorist attacks on U.S. soil, the Obama administration and some lawmakers in Congress have called for restricting a program that allows foreigners from certain Western and Asian countries to enter the U.S. without a visa. But Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., supports legislation to expand that visa waiver program, saying it is a boon to the U.S. tourism industry and the American economy. On Thursday, Blunt warned against a knee-jerk reaction to closing off travel to and from the U.S. and allied countries, suggesting that such a move might look good politically but make little real difference in preventing terrorists from arriving on American shores. 'You need to be very thoughtful that you know what you are doing and that it produces a result,' Blunt said in a brief interview with the News-Leader Thursday. The Missouri Republican, who sits on the Senate intelligence committee, defended his support for expanding the visa waiver program, which has become a political flashpoint after the terrorist attacks in Paris." [Springfield News-Leader, 12/5/15]

#### BLUNT OPPOSED BIPARTISAN BILL TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY SCREENINGS IN VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Blunt Opposed Bipartisan Legislation To Strengthen Security Screenings In The Visa Waiver Program That Would Require Program Participants Submit Biometric Information And Require In-Person Interviews Of Anyone Who Had Traveled To Syria Or Iraq Before Entering The United States. "He said he is not opposed to beefing up the visa waiver program. But he said some proposals that

purport to do that would be ineffective. He pointed, for example, to legislation introduced this week by Sens. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., which would require travelers using the visa waiver program to submit certain biometric information, such as fingerprints and a photograph, before entering the U.S. That bill would also require anyone who has visited Syria or Iraq in the past five years to get a regular tourist visa, instead of coming to the U.S. through the waiver program, triggering an in-person interview with an American consular official, among other steps.” [Springfield News-Leader, 12/5/15]

- News-Leader: “Blunt Said He Was Skeptical That Bill Would Do Anything To Stop Foreign-Trained Radicals From Entering The U.S.” “But Blunt said he was skeptical that bill would do anything to stop foreign-trained radicals from entering the U.S. ‘What if you’ve been to Libya or Yemen?’ Blunt asked, naming terrorism hot-spots not identified in the Flake-Feinstein bill. ‘And what if you went to Syria or Iraq and nobody knew?’” [Springfield News-Leader, 12/5/15]

#### BLUNT HAS RECEIVED OVER \$357,000 FROM THE LODGING AND TOURISM INDUSTRIES OVER HIS CAREER

Senator Blunt Has Taken \$357,215 From The Lodging/Tourism Industry Over The Course Of His Political Career. [Influence Explorer, accessed 12/7/15]

- Senator Blunt Is A Top Ten National Recipient Of Campaign Contributions From The Lodging/Tourism Industry, Making The Top Ten List Alongside Six Presidential Candidates, Two California Governors, And Harry Reid. According to Influence Explorer, Senator Blunt is a top ten recipient of campaign contributions from the lodging/tourism industry nationally since 1989. Blunt made the top ten list alongside Mitt Romney, Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Hillary Clinton, John McCain, Harry Reid, John Kerry, Gray Davis, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. [Influence Explorer, accessed 12/7/15]

#### THE TOURISM INDUSTRY AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTED EXPANSION OF THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

August 2014: Tourism Groups Called For An Expansion Of The Visa Waiver Program, Despite Some Lawmakers’ Fears That The Program “Created A Major Security Weakness For Groups Such As ISIS To Exploit.” The rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is spurring calls for major changes to a visa program that allows for easy entry into the United States for people with Western passports. Some lawmakers say the program, which allows citizens from 38 countries to visit the U.S. for up to 90 days without a visa, has created a major security weakness for groups such as ISIS to exploit. [...] But lawmakers have mostly talked about expanding the program, not scaling it back. The State Department currently allows participation in the visa waiver program to citizens from more than three dozen countries, the majority of which are in Europe. Tourism groups have pushed to expand the visa waiver program to Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Israel, Panama, Poland, Romania and Uruguay.” [Hill, 8/24/14]

Roger Dow, President Of The U.S. Travel Association: “The U.S. Travel Community Unambiguously Praises This Legislation.” “The U.S. Travel Association said Wednesday that the JOLT Act would ‘further sharpen America’s security and competitiveness in the booming global market for business and leisure travel. ‘The U.S. travel community unambiguously praises this legislation, which identifies and implements valuable enhancements to inbound travel from Canada, trusted traveler programs, and the Visa Waiver Program,’ the group’s president, Roger Dow, said in a statement.” [The Hill, 9/30/15]

Politico: Blunt Pushed Bills Supported By The Tourism Industry While They Were Top Bundlers For His Campaigns. “For instance, Blunt, who is seeking the GOP Senate nomination in Missouri, has for years pushed bills supported by the travel and tourism industry. He has sponsored a tax deduction for spouses tagging along on business-related trips and a separate bill to promote international travel to the United States... While Blunt sponsored such measures, a variety of hotel and travel corporations, including Marriott and Hilton, helped lead the way in bundling donations for the congressman. In the first six months of last year, Blunt reported \$310,000 in bundled donations — the most of any Senate candidate in that time span.” [Politico, 2/16/10]

The U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Is A Member Of The Discover America Partnership Leadership Committee. According to the Discover America Partnership’s website, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a member of the group’s leadership committee. [Discover America Partnership website, accessed 12/7/15]

- The Discover America Partnership Describes Itself As “A Diverse Group Of Stakeholders Behind A Focused And Intensive Campaign To Improve America’s Visa System. “According to Discover America Partnership’s website, “The Discover America Partnership unites a diverse group of stakeholders behind a focused and intensive campaign to improve America’s visa system.” [Discover America Partnership website, accessed 12/7/15]
- The Discover America Partnership Has Called For The Passage Of The JOLT Act. “Conveniently, there is an existing legislative vehicle for expediting the addition of Poland and other strong candidates to Visa Waiver: the JOLT Act, H.R. 1354, which has almost 160 House co-sponsors roughly equal in number between Republicans and Democrats. We ask the president to prioritize action on the bill, and call on House leaders to heed the huge bipartisan support for this measure and move it forward.” [Discover America Partnership press release, 6/3/14]

October 2011: Blunt Attended A Discover America Partnership Briefing About Removing Barriers To Inbound International Travel. “The Discover America Partnership (DAP), a broad coalition spearheaded by the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHandLA), US Travel, the US Chamber of Commerce and other trade associations, corporate entities, organized labor, and groups that understand the importance of international travel to the U.S. economy, today hosted a briefing for Congressional staffers. The legislative briefing featured the co-chairs of the Senate Tourism Caucus, Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Roy Blunt (R-MO), and focused on the potential for significant American job growth through removing barriers to inbound international travel.” [American Hotel and Lodging Association, Press Release, 10/4/11]

Senator Roy Blunt sounds off about brewing Syrian refugee crisis: “Many fear opening the door to refugees is inviting disaster. With the Paris attacks, investigators say one or two of the terrorists came in disguised as Syrian refugees. “One percent...if someone put 100 grapes on a table and said, ‘By the way- one of these is poison, just go ahead and have at them.’ Who do you think would eat the grapes? You don’t have to have a very big margin of error here.” [KY3, 11/23/2015]

Blunt: United States Is Facing Threats “More Prevalent, More Complex And Potentially More Catastrophic Than Ever Before,” But Laws Meant To Combat Those Threats Like FISA And The Patriot Act Should Expire. “Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Missouri, spoke at Westminster College in Fulton on Monday and warned that threats facing the United States are ‘more prevalent, more complex and potentially more catastrophic than ever before.’ He also said laws intended to fight those threats should eventually expire, particularly the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and the Patriot Act.” [Columbia Missourian, 9/14/15]

- Headline: Blunt: America Is Threatened, But Patriot Act Might Not Always Be The Answer. [Columbia Missourian, 9/14/15]

## BLUNT PLAYED RECKLESS PARTISAN GAME WITH HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT AND SUPPORTED A SHUTDOWN

Blunt Threatened To Shut Down The Department Of Homeland Security Over Obama’s Executive Order On Immigration. “Sen. Roy Blunt is helping to orchestrate a Senate showdown over President Barack Obama’s executive action shielding millions of undocumented workers from deportation. The confrontation will unfold next week in the Senate over legislation to fund the Department of Homeland Security. That bill, passed by the House on Jan. 14, includes provisions that would overturn Obama’s immigration order, which allows about 4 million undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S. and work here legally. Blunt, R-Mo., says the president’s action was an egregious overreach, and the House funding bill is the only way to send a message to Obama that he cannot act unilaterally. [...] Blunt, a member of the Senate GOP leadership team, would not answer questions about a possible shutdown of the homeland security agency, suggesting that next week’s Senate debate could take an un-predictable turn.” [Gannett News Service, 1/30/15]

- Sen. Portman Said “I Don’t Think A Shutdown Is A Good Plan.” “Republicans appear to be divided over how far to take the fight. Funding for the homeland security agency will run out at midnight on Feb. 27. [...] But others said it didn’t make sense to take this to the brink. ‘I don’t think a shutdown is a good plan,’ said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio.” [Gannett News Service, 1/30/15]

Blunt Voted Against A Bill Providing \$47.8 Billion In FY2015 For The Homeland Security Department And Related Activities. In February 2015, Blunt voted against: “Passage of the bill that would provide \$47.8 billion in fiscal 2015 for the Homeland Security Department and related activities. The bill would include \$12.6 billion for Customs and Border Protection; \$6 billion for Immigration and

Customs Enforcement; \$7.2 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, including fees; \$10 billion for the Coast Guard; \$1.7 billion for the Secret Service; and \$10.8 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including \$6.4 billion for emergency disaster relief." The bill passed by a 68-31 vote. [CQ, 2/27/15; H.R. 240, Vote 62, 2/27/15]

- Gannett News Service: Blunt's Vote Against A Clean DHS Funding Bill Put Him At Odds With Republicans Who Want "To Build The GOP's Image As A Responsible Governing Party." "On Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he would allow the spending bill to move forward -- free of immigration provisions -- and would hold a separate vote on a bill to nullify the executive order. He described that strategy as a way 'to get the Senate unstuck.' Blunt's opposition to that plan put him at odds with McConnell and the three other Senate GOP leaders, who want to use Republican control of Congress to build the GOP's image as a responsible governing party ahead of next year's presidential election." [Gannett News Service, 2/27/15]

Blunt Was One Of 31 Senators Who Opposed Clean Funding Bill That Would Keep Homeland Security Department Open. "On Friday, [Blunt] was one of 31 Senate Republicans who opposed a 'clean' funding bill that would keep the Homeland Security Department open through the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30 without provisions blocking Obama's executive action." [Gannett News Service, 2/27/15]

- The Department In Charge Of Protecting The U.S. From Terrorism Would Shut Down Without A Funding Bill. "President Barack Obama set the stage in December, when he issued an executive order shielding an estimated 4 million undocumented immigrants from deportation. The move outraged Republicans, who fought back by approving only a short-term extension of money for the Department of Homeland Security. Some party members demanded that any subsequent spending bill defund the president's action. On Friday, the GOP split resulted in a stalemate over a bill to renew funding for the Homeland Security agency. Some Republicans say homeland security spending is too important to use as leverage on immigration. Others say the move is necessary to counter Obama's executive overreach. With money set to run out at midnight, the federal agency in charge of protecting the nation from terrorism will partially shut down unless Republicans find a last-minute way to break the impasse." [Gannett News Service, 2/27/15]

- In 2013, Blunt Argued That Shutting Down The Federal Government Over The Affordable Care Act Would Do More Harm Than Good. "Blunt made a similar argument in October 2013 when he opposed conservatives' moves to use a government funding bill to attack the Affordable Care Act. That led to a 16-day partial shutdown of the government. Blunt said at the time that the conservatives' strategy was futile and did more harm to the Republican Party than to the health care reform law." [Gannett News Service, 2/27/15]

BLUNT VOTED FOR REPUBLICAN SPENDING BILL THAT WOULD HAVE MADE MISSOURI LESS SAFE BY CUTTING HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTMENTS IN THE STATE BY \$1.3 MILLION

Blunt Voted For 2011 Republican Continuing Resolution To Fund The Government Through FY 2011. In March 2011, Blunt voted for: "Passage of the bill that would provide continuing appropriations through fiscal 2011 for all government agencies, except the Defense Department, which would receive \$515.8 billion in base funding. Most other programs would be funded at fiscal 2010 levels, less eliminations, reductions and rescissions totaling roughly \$61.5 billion." [CQ, 3/9/11; H.R. 1, Vote 36, 3/9/11]

Bill Cut Homeland Security Investments In Missouri By More Than \$1.3 Million. "H.R. 1 reduces Missouri's homeland security investments by more than \$1,300,000, hurting local law enforcement's ability to keep Missouri families safe." [Democratic Policy and Communications Center, Accessed 8/5/15]

BLUNT HAS BEEN CHRONICALLY ABSENT IN THE SENATE, MAKING A TOP TEN LIST OF BIGGEST NO-SHOWS...

Blunt Was Included On Top 10 List Of Absentee Lawmakers. "Republicans make up nine of the 10 spots on Vocativ's Senate list, with Hawaii Democrat Brian Schatz missing the third-most votes after his appointment to the seat following the death of Sen. Daniel Inouye in December 2012. He was subsequently reelected last November. Other names on top 10 list include Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), David Vitter (R-La.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Roy Blunt (R-Mo.)." [Politico, 2/18/15]

...MISSING KEY VOTES ON REAUTHORIZING PROVISIONS THE PATRIOT ACT, FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENSE AND HOMELAND SECURITY, AND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY DIRECTOR

Blunt Did Not Vote On A Motion To End Debate On Extending Three Provisions Of The Patriot Act. In May 2011, Blunt did not vote on: "Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the bill that would extend through June 1, 2015, three provisions of the anti-terrorism law known as the Patriot Act." The motion was agreed to 74-8. [CQ, 11/3/15; S. 1038, Vote 75, 5/23/11]

Blunt Did Not Vote On A Motion To Kill The Bill That Would Extend Three Provisions Of The Patriot Act. In May 2011, Blunt did not vote on: "Reid, D-Nev., motion to table (kill) the Reid motion to proceed to the bill that would extend through June 1, 2015, three provisions of the anti-terrorism law known as the Patriot Act." The motion was agreed to 74-13. [CQ, 11/3/15; S. 1038, Vote 76, 5/24/11]

Blunt Did Not Vote On A Motion To Advance The FY 2014 Department Of Defense Authorization Act. In November 2013, Blunt did not vote on: "Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Reid, D-Nev., motion to proceed to the bill that would authorize \$625.1 billion for discretionary defense spending including \$526 billion for Defense Department base spending and \$80.7 billion for overseas contingency operations. The bill also would authorize \$17.8 billion for national security programs at the Energy Department." The motion was agreed to 91-0. [CQ, 11/3/15; S. 1197, Vote 236, 11/18/13]

Blunt Did Not Vote On A Motion To Advance An Amendment To Conference With The House Over The 2015 Department Of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. In March 2015, Blunt did not vote on: "McConnell, R-Ky., motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the motion to insist on the Senate amendment and agree to the House request to go to conference on the bill that would provide \$47.8 billion in fiscal 2015 for the Homeland Security Department and related activities. The motion also would authorize the appointment of conferees." The motion was rejected 47-43. [CQ, 11/3/15; H.R. 240, Vote 64, 3/2/15]

Blunt Did Not Vote On A Motion To Kill The Request To Conference With The House Over The 2015 Department Of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. In March 2015, Blunt did not vote on: "Cochran, R-Miss., motion to table (kill) the House message to request a conference on the bill that would provide \$47.8 billion in fiscal 2015 for the Homeland Security Department and related activities." Motion was agreed to 58-31. [CQ, 11/3/15; H.R. 240, Vote 65, 3/2/15]

Blunt Did Not Vote On The Confirmation Of Jeh Johnson To Be Secretary Of The Homeland Security Department. In December 2013, Blunt did not vote on: "Confirmation of President Barack Obama's nomination of Jeh Charles Johnson of New Jersey to be secretary of the Homeland Security Department." Johnson was confirmed 78-16. [CQ, 11/3/15; PN 925, Vote 276, 12/16/13]

Blunt Did Not Vote On A Motion To Advance The Confirmation Of Jeh Johnson To Be Secretary Of The Homeland Security Department. "In December 2013, Blunt did not vote on: "Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on President Barack Obama's nomination of Jeh Charles Johnson of New Jersey to be secretary of the Homeland Security Department." Motion was agreed to 57-37. [CQ, 11/3/15; PN 925, Vote 275, 12/16/13]

WHILE SERVING ON THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, BLUNT SKIPPED OUT ON A MAJORITY OF THE HEARINGS, ATTENDING ONLY 43% IN 2013 AND 23% IN 2014,

In 2013, Blunt Attended 43% Of Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings. According to public attendance records, Blunt was present at just 17 out of 39, or 43% of Senate Armed Services Committee hearings in 2013. [Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings, January 31, 2013 – November 7, 2013]

In 2014, Blunt Attended 23% Of Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings. According to public attendance records, Blunt was present at just 8 out of 34, or 23% of Senate Armed Services Committee hearings in 2014. [Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings, January 16th, 2014 – December 12, 2014]

BLUNT MISSED KEY ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON CURRENT AND FUTURE WORLDWIDE THREATS, SYRIA, ISIS, AND US

## MILITARY READINESS

Blunt Missed Hearing On The Situation In Syria. Blunt missed the April 2013 Situation in Syria hearing. [Situation in Syria, 4/17/13]

Blunt Missed Hearing On The Current Readiness Of U.S. Forces. Blunt missed the April 2013 Current Readiness of U.S. Forces hearing. [Current Readiness of U.S. Forces, 4/18/13]

Blunt Missed Hearing On Current And Future Worldwide Threats. Blunt missed the April 2013 Current and Future Worldwide Threats hearing. [Current and Future Worldwide Threats, 4/18/13]

Blunt Missed Hearing On Current And Future Worldwide Threats. Blunt missed the February 2014 Current and Future Worldwide Threats hearing. [Current and Future Worldwide Threats, 2/11/14]

Blunt Missed Hearing On U.S. Central Command And U.S. Africa Command. Blunt missed the March 2014 U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command. [U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command, 3/6/14]

Blunt Missed Hearing On The Situation In Afghanistan. Blunt missed the March 2014 Situation in Afghanistan hearing. [The Situation in Afghanistan, 3/12/14]

Blunt Missed Hearing On The Current Readiness Of U.S. Forces. Blunt missed the March 2014 Current Readiness of U.S. Forces hearing. [Current Readiness of U.S. Forces, 3/26/14]

Blunt Missed Hearing On Army Modernization. Blunt missed the April 2014 Army Modernization hearing. [Army Modernization, 4/9/14]

Blunt Missed Hearing On U.S Policy Toward Iraq, Syria, And ISIS. Blunt missed the September 2014 U.S. Policy Towards Iraq and Syria and the Threat Posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) hearing. [U.S. Policy Towards Iraq and Syria and the Threat Posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), 9/16/14]

## BLUNT WAS ONE OF JUST FIVE SENATORS TO VOTE AGAINST CONFIRMING ASH CARTER AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Blunt Voted Against The Nomination Of Ash Carter For Defense Secretary. "The Senate on Thursday confirmed President Barack Obama's choice to run the Pentagon, handing Ash Carter the unenviable task of steering the military as the United States confronts Islamic State militants, conflict in Ukraine and other worldwide threats. The overwhelming bipartisan vote in the Republican-controlled Senate was 93-5. Carter will replace Chuck Hagel, the former Republican senator who had a rough relationship with Obama's insular group of national security advisers. [...] Voting against the nomination were Republican Sens. Roy Blunt of Missouri, Mike Crapo and Jim Risch of Idaho, Mark Kirk of Illinois and John Boozman of Arkansas." [Associated Press, 2/12/15]