

Jamie Ager Campaigned Alongside Pete Buttigieg, Who As A Presidential Candidate, Called For Cutting The U.S. Prison Population In Half And Providing Taxpayer-Funded Healthcare To Illegal Immigrants

In March 2026, Ager Said He Was “Honored” To Have Pete Buttigieg’s Endorsement.

“Today, Jamie Ager, Democratic candidate for US Congress, announced the endorsement of former United States Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. ‘Jamie Ager brings a farmer’s sense of ethics to public service: care for what you’ve been given, think long-term, and leave things better than you found them,’ said Buttigieg. ‘Deeply rooted in his community, he understands that leadership is about showing up for your neighbors, taking responsibility for your work, and engaging consistently over time to earn trust. At a moment like this, Jamie’s grounded, serious approach is exactly what we need in Congress.’ ‘I’m honored to have Secretary Buttigieg’s support in this race,’ said Ager. ‘He understands the value of building community and shared understanding, and his history of reaching across the aisle to foster dialogue without compromising his principles is something that has often inspired me.’” (Jamie Ager, “Pete Buttigieg Endorses Jamie Ager,” [Press Release](#), 3/5/26)

In May 2026, Buttigieg Spoke At A Campaign Rally For Ager In Fairview, NC. “Supporters of Jamie Ager's campaign for U.S. Congress gathered in Fairview on Monday, turning out in the hundreds for a rally that featured an appearance by a high-profile Democratic guest. The event featured a headline appearance from former U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who delivered a message about local leadership and the political landscape in western North Carolina.”

(Marisa Sardonia, “Pete Buttigieg Speaks At Campaign Rally For Jamie Ager, The Democratic Nominee For NC-11,” [WLOS News](#), 5/18/26)



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Buttigieg Supported Reducing The Prison Population By 50% Because “In Some Cases, Incarceration Actually Leads To An Increase In Crime.” “Experts agree that far too many people are locked up unnecessarily in the United States. As a result, we have the highest incarceration rate in the world. If we were to reduce this rate by 50%, we would still have the 28th highest incarceration rate globally—just after Nicaragua. In some cases, incarceration actually leads to an increase in crime.” (Pete’s Plans, [Pete For America](#), Archived 2/14/20)

In June 2019, Buttigieg Defended His Support For Providing Health Care To The 11 Million Illegal Immigrants In The United States. “All 10 Democratic presidential candidates on the debate stage raised their hands when asked whether their health plans will provide coverage for undocumented immigrants, a controversial idea that could dramatically expand the pool of people needing government subsidies. South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg was the first to defend the concept, arguing that a federal program providing health coverage to undocumented migrants would not significantly add to the deficit. ‘Our country is healthier when everybody is healthier. And remember we’re talking about something people are given a chance to buy into. In the same way that there are undocumented immigrants in my community who pay — they pay sales taxes, they pay property taxes, directly or indirectly — this is not about a hand out. This is an insurance program and we do no favors by having 11 million undocumented people in our country be unable to access health care,’ he said.” (Alexander Bolton, “All Candidates Raise Hands On Giving Health Care To Undocumented Immigrants,” [The Hill](#), 6/27/25)