

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

18 FEB -1 PM 12:30

MEMBER / OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual Financial Disclosure Statement. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must **complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, 135 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please do not file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Congresswoman Barbara Lee
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: _____ *or* None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: January 24 Return: January 28
b. Dates at personal expense: _____ *or* None
4. Departure city: Washington DC Destination: Havana, Cuba Return city: Washington DC
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Center for Democracy in the America's (CDA)
6. Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary): In Cuba I met with Cuban and American government officials to discuss US/Cuba relations
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (*signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*):
 - a. a completed Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form;
 - b. the Primary Trip Sponsor Form completed by the trip sponsor prior to the trip, including all attachments and Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
 - c. page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the Member or officer; *and*
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the sponsor's agenda. (*Signify that statement is true by checking box*):
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER: _____

Barbara Lee

DATE: _____

2-1-18

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. ***A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

- Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)
- Travel Destination(s): Havana, Cuba
- Date of Departure: January 24, 2018 Date of Return: January 28, 2018
- Name(s) of Traveler(s): Rep. Barbara Lee
(NOTE: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.)
- Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in response to Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$1,165	\$1,100	\$436	\$100 (please see addendum)
Accompanying Relative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. (Signify statement is true by checking box):

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Emily Mendrala

Name: Emily Mendrala Title: Executive Director

Organization: Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)

I am an officer of the above-named organization (signify statement is true by checking box):

Address: P.O. Box 53106
Washington, DC 20009

Telephone number: 202-234-5506

Email Address: emendrala@democracyinamericas.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at (202) 225-7103.

**CDA Delegation to Cuba
January 24-28, 2018**

Addendum:

Other Expenses: \$100

- 1) Tips (hotel, driver, guide): \$25
- 2) Translators: \$50
- 3) Honoraria: \$25

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM


This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. *Form (and any attachments) may be faxed to the Committee at (202) 225-7392, sent or delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth, or e-mailed to travel.requests@mail.house.gov.*

YOUR COMPLETED REQUEST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE NO LESS THAN 30 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROPOSED DEPARTURE DATE. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.

Name of Traveler: Congresswoman Barbara Lee

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name of signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For staff, name of employing Member or committee: _____

Office address: 2267 Rayburn House Office Building

Telephone number: (202)225-2661

Email address of contact person: Christopher.Livingston@mail.house.gov

- Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee:

Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7103 (phone)
(202) 225-7392 (fax)
Travel email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Congresswoman Barbara Lee
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Center for Democracy in the America's (CDA)
3. Travel destination(s): Havana, Cuba
4. a. Date of departure January 24, 2018 Date of return: January 28, 2018
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? Yes No
If yes, dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense? Yes No
b. If yes:
(1) Name of accompanying relative: _____
(2) Relationship to traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: Yes No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (*i.e.*, travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? Yes No
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:

7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: Yes No
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.
As a member of the bipartisan Cuba Working Group this trip will serve to educate me on the ongoing investigation into sonic attacks in Cuba and update me on the status of US/Cuba relations.
9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? Yes No

10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**

TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: Dec 19, 2017


Signature of Employing Member

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a Traveler Form at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee Web site (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): _____
Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent (signify that the statement is true by checking box):
3. Check only one: I represent that:
 - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip *or*
 - b. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds *or*
 - c. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____
4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members and employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary):
Please see addendum.
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? Yes No
6. Date of departure: January 24, 2018 Date of return: January 28, 2018
7. a. City of departure: San Francisco, CA
b. Destination(s): Havana, Cuba
c. City of return: Washington, DC
8. I represent that (check one of the following):
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: *or*
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: *or*
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event and lobbyist/foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. Check one of the following:
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above:
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging:
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night: *or*
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights:If "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: _____

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees) (*indicate agenda is attached by checking box*):

11. Check one:

a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (*signify that the statement is true by checking box*): **or**

b. N/A – trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

CDA is a nonpartisan nonprofit institution that seeks to educate policymakers on U.S. policy toward Cuba. One of CDA's main activities is organizing fact-finding trips to Cuba to give participants first-hand experience. CDA is responsible for all aspects of this trip, including the selection and recruitment of participants and organizing the agenda of meetings.

13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary.

a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (Specify: _____)

b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (Specify: _____)

c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (*signify that the statement is true by checking box*):

15. I represent that either (*check one of the following*):

a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: **or**

b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation:

If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
Approximately \$110

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
Havana is the capital of Cuba and the country's largest city. It affords the opportunity to meet a wide range of Cubans, including civil society leaders, artists, academics, and government officials.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel name: Hotel Melia Cohiba City: Havana Cost per night: \$275

Reason(s) for selecting: Necessary amenities like internet access, central location, proximity to meeting sites

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____

Reason(s) for selecting: _____

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____

Reason(s) for selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$400
For each accompanying relative	N/A	N/A	N/A

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$150	Translation, tips, educational materials
For each accompanying relative	N/A	N/A

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below. *or*
 b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip.

21. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. *For questions, please contact CDA's Policy Director at andrew@democracyinamericas.org*

Signature: Emily Mendrala

Name: Emily Mendrala

Title: Executive Director

Organization: Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA)

Address: P.O. Box 53106, Washington DC 20009

Telephone number: 202-234-5506

Email address: emendrala@democracyinamericas.org

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1015 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)
 (202) 225-7392 (general fax)

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana
Chairwoman
Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Ranking Member

Patrick Meehan, Pennsylvania
Trey Gowdy, South Carolina
Kenny Marchant, Texas
Leonard Lance, New Jersey

Yvette D. Clarke, New York
Jared Polis, Colorado
Anthony Brown, Maryland
Steve Cohen, Tennessee



ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

January 22, 2018

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Donna Herbert
Director of Administration

Megan Savage
*Chief of Staff and Counsel to
the Chairwoman*

Daniel J. Taylor
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

The Honorable Barbara Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Cuba,¹ scheduled for January 24 to 28, 2018, sponsored by the Center for Democracy in the Americas.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$390 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$390] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts

¹ This letter concerns whether this trip complies with applicable House Rules. It is our understanding that the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) administers regulations governing travel by United States citizens to Cuba, including what items may be brought back to the United States. OFAC published a set of questions and answers related to Cuba, available at https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions+/Programs/Documents/cuba_faqs_new.pdf. You should contact that agency directly to ensure that your travel is permissible under its regulations.

Additionally, we note that the U.S. Department of State (State Department) has issued a travel advisory concerning travel to Cuba, *available at* <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/cuba-travel-advisory.html>. You may wish to contact the State Department regarding the safety of your proposed trip.

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Page 2

from Foreign Governments filed with the Committee, and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Susan W. Brooks
Chairwoman



Theodore E. Deutch
Ranking Member

SWB/TED:jeb

**U.S. House of Representatives Delegation to Cuba
Havana, Cuba
January 24 – 28, 2018**

**CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT AGENDA FOR TRIP
PARTICIPANTS ONLY
MEETINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Wednesday, January 24

Morning/Afternoon Members fly from respective district to Havana on commercial carrier

Afternoon/Evening Arrival in Havana

Transfer to hotel and check in

Accommodations: **Hotel Meliá Cohiba**
Av. Paseo e/ 1^a y 3^a, Vedado
+53-7-833-3636

8:00pm **Trip Framing Dinner Discussion with CDA Executive Director Emily Mendrala**
Emily Mendrala will provide a historical overview of U.S. policy toward Cuba, and outline the current context of bilateral relations given recent course-altering events. Emily will provide an overview of the planned itinerary and the goals for the trip.

Location: Hotel restaurant

Thursday, January 25

8:30am – 9:30am Breakfast at hotel

9:30am – 10:00am Transfer to meeting

10:00am – 11:30am **Meeting with Officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX)
Bruno Rodríguez Parilla, Minister
Josefina Vidal, Director General for North America**
The delegation will discuss recent events affecting U.S.-Cuba relations.

11:30am – 12:00pm Transfer to lunch

12:00pm – 1:30pm Lunch

- 1:30pm – 2:00pm Transfer to meeting
- 2:00pm – 3:30pm **Meeting with Cuban officials involved in the investigation into incidents that affected U.S. personnel in Havana**
The delegation will have the opportunity to receive information from and ask questions of Cuban officials and experts regarding U.S. diplomats' health ailments.
- 3:30pm – 4:00pm Transfer to meeting
- 4:00pm – 5:30pm **Meetings with Cubans affected by the cutoff of U.S. consular services**
The delegation will meet with Cubans affected by recent changes in consular services at the U.S. Embassy, including those with families in the United States seeking immigration visas and others seeking non-immigrant visas for artistic performances and other purposes.

Location: Hotel conference room
- 5:30pm – 6:00pm Transfer to dinner
- 6:00pm – 7:30pm **Dinner Discussion with meeting Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy in Havana**
The U.S. Chargé d'Affaires will discuss U.S.-Cuba bilateral relations with the delegation, including the current state of affairs and U.S. views on the forthcoming leadership transition in Cuba.

Location: *San Cristobal paladar*
- 7:30pm – 8:00pm Transfer to meeting
- 8:00pm – 10:00pm **Meeting with Lizt Alfonso and Juan Carlos Coello**, founder and director of the Lizt Alfonso Dance School, about the impact of the changes in consular services at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, including impacts on planned travel to the U.S. The school was awarded the International Spotlight Award by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities during the 2016 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards (NAHYP) ceremony at the White House. Following the discussion, the group will see a brief performance by students enrolled in the dance school.
- 10:00pm – 10:30pm Transfer to hotel

Friday, January 26

8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast at hotel

9:00am – 9:30am Transfer to meeting

9:30am – 11:00am **Roundtable Discussion with Afro-Cuban Women Community Leaders**

Magia Lopez, community leader and member of the rap group *Obsesión*.
Mirna Dickson, curator of *MirArte diaDia*, an independent Afro-Cuban women's arts organization, and activist for Afro-Cuban lesbian rights.

Aracely Rodríguez Malagón, member of the Afro Club project (*El Club de Esendrú*)

Ms. Lopez and her colleagues will discuss societal issues in Cuba at the intersection of gender, sexuality, and race in Cuba, including racism, machismo culture, and employment. The group will have a chance to learn about how changing dynamics in U.S.-Cuba relations affect their communities and share perspectives about parallel challenges in the United States.

Location: **Home of Magia Lopez**

11:00am – 11:30am Transfer to meeting

11:30am – 12:30pm **Meeting with Kempinski hotel representatives**

The Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski is a joint venture between Cuba's government and Kempinski Hotels. The hotel was included on the list of prohibited entities published by the State Department on November 8.

Kempinski managerial staff will discuss the impact of U.S. policy on foreign business in Cuba.

Location: **Kempinski Hotel**

12:30pm – 1:00pm Transfer to lunch

1:00pm – 2:30pm **Lunch discussion with Cuban journalist Javier Ortiz**

Javier Ortiz is a TV news producer and has written for *On Cuba*, a Havana based magazine distributed in the United States. Ortiz will discuss Cuban domestic politics, criticism of Cuba's government, and the editorial process in state-run news.

Location: **Rio Mar paladar**

2:30pm – 3:00pm Transfer to meeting

3:00pm – 4:30pm **Meeting with third country Ambassadors**
The delegation will discuss issues with Ambassadors from Canada, Mexico, and the European Union. The Ambassadors will provide a unique view of the forthcoming leadership transition in Cuba, the mysterious illnesses affecting U.S. diplomats and diplomats from other countries, and the global view of U.S. policy toward Cuba.

Location: *Paseo 206 paladar*

4:30pm – 7:00pm Transfer to hotel and personal time

7:00pm – 7:30pm Transfer to dinner

7:30pm – 9:00pm **Dinner Discussion with Cuban Economist Dr. Ricardo Torres**
Dr. Torres is a professor of economics and Cuban economy with the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy at the University of Havana. Dr. Torres will comment on changes taking place in the Cuban economy and prospects for further reforms in the context of regional and global economic pressures, and field questions from the delegation.

Location: *Tierra paladar*

9:00pm – 9:30pm Return to hotel

Saturday, January 27

8:30am - 9:30am Breakfast at hotel

9:30am – 10:00am Transfer to meeting

10:00am – 11:30am **Visit to La Rosa de Ortega B&B and meeting with owner Julia de la Rosa**

Julia, alongside her husband, renovated a mansion in disrepair on the outskirts of Havana to found her bed-and-breakfast business. Today, her house is listed on Airbnb, and she employs 17 people and collaborates with Cuban entrepreneurs across the island. Julia's clientele consists of about 75 percent U.S. visitors. In July, she traveled to Washington on a delegation of Cuban entrepreneurs to urge against U.S. policy changes to restrict travel to Cuba. In October, she told The Hill that she received 29 cancellations from U.S. visitors in the aftermath of the State Department publishing its Cuba Travel Warning.

The group will have the chance to learn about entrepreneurship in Cuba and how U.S. policy affects entrepreneurs.

11:30am – 12:00pm Transfer to lunch

12:00pm – 1:30pm **Lunch Meeting with Cuban entrepreneurs**

The delegation will have the chance to meet with Cuban entrepreneurs Yamina Vicente, owner of party planning and decoration business *Decorazon*, Celia Mendoza, owner of *Concierge Havana*, and Niuris Higuera, owner of the restaurant *Atelier*, where we will be eating. They will share their experiences and challenges as entrepreneurs in Cuba and the impact of U.S. policy on their businesses.

Location: *Atelier paladar*

3:30pm – 4:00pm Transfer to meeting

4:00pm – 5:30pm **Meeting with international press to discuss political, economic, and social developments on the island**

Michael Weissenstein, Associated Press

Sarah Marsh, Reuters

Portia Siegelbaum, CBS News

Location: Hotel conference room

5:30pm – 7:30pm Transfer to hotel and personal time

7:30pm – 9:30pm **Closing Debrief Dinner**

The group will debrief, discussing the trip's meetings, lessons learned, and possible action items going forward.

Location: *Chef Ivan Justo paladar*

9:30pm – 10:00pm Transfer to hotel

Sunday, January 28

8:15am – 9:15am Breakfast at hotel and check out

9:15am – 9:45am Transfer to airport

11:15am – 12:42am Flight JetBlue 1004 HAV – Orlando MCO

2:36pm – 4:45pm Flight JetBlue 724 MCO – DCA

Addendum: House Invitees

Representative Barbara Lee was invited due to her interest and leadership on Cuba issues. Rep. Lee has been an outspoken proponent of engagement and dialogue with Cuba. She is also a senior member of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the State Department, including Western Hemisphere policy.

Representative Bobby Rush was invited due to his leadership on Cuba issues. Throughout his tenure in the House, Rep. Rush has offered numerous bills relating to Cuba.

Representative Roger Marshall was invited due to his interest and leadership on Cuba issues, particularly related to agricultural trade. Rep. Marshall previously traveled to the island and is a cosponsor of several bills related to Cuba.

Representative Tom Emmer was invited due to his interest and leadership on Cuba issues. He previously traveled to the island and is the lead sponsor of legislation related to Cuba. Minnesota also has historical trade ties to Cuba.

Representative Darin LaHood was invited due to his interest in learning about how the current state of bilateral relations and changing dynamics may affect the economic potential of trade with Cuba, which is of particular interest to Illinois farmers.

Representative Erik Paulsen was invited due to his interest in learning about how the current state of bilateral relations and changing dynamics may affect the economic potential of trade with Cuba, which is of particular interest to Minnesota farmers.

Representative Gwen Moore was invited due to her interest and leadership on Cuba issues. Throughout her tenure in the House, Rep. Moore has supported numerous bills relating to Cuba.

Representative Karen Bass was invited due to her interest and leadership on Cuba issues. Throughout her tenure in the House, Rep. Meeks has supported numerous bills relating to Cuba.

Representative Gregory Meeks was invited due to his interest and leadership on Cuba issues. Throughout his tenure in the House, Rep. Meeks has supported numerous bills relating to Cuba.

Representative Randy Hultgren was invited due to his interest in learning about U.S.-Cuba bilateral relations and the future potential for trade relations with Cuba, which are of particular interest to construction and manufacturing companies in his district.

Representative Rosa DeLauro was invited due to her long-standing interest in U.S.-Cuba relations. Rep. DeLauro is a member of the bipartisan Cuba Working Group.

Center for Democracy
— IN THE —
AMERICAS



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Sarah Stephens

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December 18, 2017

The Honorable Barbara Lee
United States House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lee:

The Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA) cordially invites you to participate in a bipartisan Congressional Member delegation to Havana, Cuba. This trip will allow participants to speak directly with U.S. and Cuban officials about the state of bilateral affairs and issues in the diplomatic relationship. Participants will also learn firsthand about Cuba's economy and examine social and political issues on the island in the weeks ahead of a political transition in Cuba, and in the context of evolving U.S.-Cuba relations. Members will fly to Havana from their respective districts on Wednesday, January 24th and will return to Washington, D.C. on Sunday, January 28th.

During this fact-finding trip, we will hear diverse opinions from key figures in Cuba's government as well as civil society leaders, artists, academics, and young people, and their reactions to recent developments in U.S.-Cuba bilateral relations. We will also meet some of Cuba's new entrepreneurs to discuss how their lives are affected by recent events.

CDA has organized more than fifty research and fact-finding delegations to Cuba since 2001, most of them trips for bipartisan delegations of Members and congressional staff. Our purpose with these delegations is to give U.S. policymakers opportunities to see for themselves the realities that face the Cuban people today.

We very much hope you can join this delegation and we would be honored to travel with you. All trips sponsored by CDA comply fully with the ethics rules enacted by Congress regarding privately-sponsored travel. Please contact my colleague Andrew Fishbein at andrew@democracyinamericas.org or 202-234-5506 to RSVP or to ask any questions.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Mendrala

Emily Mendrala

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