



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM ☒ Original ☐ Amendment

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, by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, 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: Rep. Kelly Armstrong
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ OR None ☒
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 9/4/2021 Return: 9/9/2021
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None ☒
4. Departure City: Bismarck, ND Destination: Tbilisi, Georgia Return City: Bismarck, ND
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: US-Georgia Friendship Association
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary):

I participated in meetings with Georgian officials across all levels of government. During my time there I was able to see first hand the challenges that the United States and Georgia face in the region, and better understand the geopolitical landscape. I met with the US Ambassador to Georgia to discuss how Congress can best support her and her mission. We also met with trade
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 the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - 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 attached sponsor's agenda.

Signify statement is true by checking the 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.

Member / Officer Signature: _____

Date: 09/24/2021



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☒ Original ☐ Amendment

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 ten 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.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid for the trip: US-Georgia Friendship Association. Melory Tsipouria
2. Travel Destination(s): Country of Georgia
3. Date of Departure: 9/4/2021 Date of Return: 9/9/2021 Steil, Armstrong
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Carol Miller, Ron Estes, Alex Mooney, Bryan Steil, Kelly Armstrong
Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.
5. Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$5600	\$440.00	\$150.00	
Accompanying Family Member				

6. ☒ 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:  Date: 09/15/2021

Name: Melory Tsipouria Title: President

Organization: US-Georgia Friendship Association

☒ I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 1642 Myra ct Chula Vista, CA 91911

Email: melory.t@usgfa.org Telephone: (619) 606-5544

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.

USA-GEORGIA, CONTINIUED ENGAGMENT

Tbilisi, Georgia overnight September 5, 6, 7, 8 -2021

Delegation members: (confirmed)

Carol Miller- Member of Congress

Bryan Steil-Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong-Member of Congress

Alex Mooney-Member of Congress

Ron Estes-Member of Congress

Andrew Skale- US-Georgia Friendship Association

Melory Tsipouria- US-Georgia Friendship Association

Saturday, September 4th, 2021

Participants begin to travel to Tbilisi, Georgia from Washington, DC. (Plane leaves Dulles Airport at 11:15 pm)

Sunday, September 5th, 2021

Participants arrive in Istanbul, Turkey at 4:05pm.

8:40 pm flight to Tbilisi, Georgia.

11:55 pm Delegation arrives in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Monday, September 6th, 2021

1:15 am Delegation checks in to Marriott Hotel. (13 Shota Rustaveli St, Tbilisi, Georgia)

9:00-9:45 am Breakfast buffet

9:45am Delegation travels to Khurvaleti, Gori to the occupation zone.

10:15 am Delegation arrives in the occupation zone and have discussion with the Georgian Security services about the challenges the Russian occupation presents almost daily by “creeping annexation” through the incremental advancement of the razor wire

administrative line deeper into Georgian territory and in addition to that, frequently and illegally detaining Georgian citizens on the Georgia controlled territories and imprisoning them, asking for ransom and sometimes killing them (Giga Otkhozoria and Archil Tatunashvili, are the names of the Georgians that were brutally assassinated after their illegal detentions).

11:15 Meeting ends

11:15 pm Delegation leaves the occupation zone and heads to the nearby Wounded warrior care center in Tserovani, Georgia (Center is financed 100% by the United States).

11:30 pm Delegation arrives in Tserovani, Georgia. Delegation tours the center alongside the Defense Minister of Georgia followed by meeting with the wounded Georgian soldiers from Iraq and the Afghanistan missions.

1:30 pm Delegation leaves the Tserovani care center and heads to Mtskheta, an ancient Capital of Georgia.

2:00 pm Delegation arrives in Mtskheta and visits Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. Although current version was completed in the 11th Century, but original church dates back in the 4th Century and today it is recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Delegation tours the site and surrounding areas.

2:30 pm Delegation leaves Svetitskhoveli site and arrives at nearby Marani Hall.

2:45 pm Delegation arrives in Marani Hall and meets with the Minister of Security Services of Georgia Grigol Liluashvili.

3:30 pm Late working lunch with the Security Minister Liluashvili.

4:15 pm The working lunch ends and delegation heads to Tbilisi to meet the Prime Minister.

4:45 pm Delegation arrives in Tbilisi and meets the Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili.

6:00 pm Meeting ends and delegation heads to Tsinandali Hotel in Kakheti region outside of Tbilisi.

6:30 pm Delegation arrives in Tsinandali where Prime Minister of Georgia along with 7 Ministers (Cabinet members) hosts a State Dinner for the US delegation.

9:30 pm Dinner ends and delegation heads to hotel.

Tuesday, September 7th, 2021

9:00 am Breakfast buffet

9:45 am Breakfast ends and the Delegation heads to the US Embassy in Georgia.

11:00 am Delegation arrives in the US Embassy.

11:00 am Meeting with the US Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degnan.

12:00 noon Meeting ends, and the Delegation departs US Embassy and heads back to Marriott Hotel.

12:30 am Delegation arrives at the Marriott and meets with the Members of 5 opposition parties.

1:45 pm Meeting ends.

2:00 pm Meeting and the working lunch with the President and members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia. Discussion about the investment/business climate for American businessman/companies in Georgia.

3:00 pm Meeting ends and the delegation heads to the nearby Palace of Ceremonies to meet with the Foreign Minister of Georgia.

3:15 pm Delegation arrives in The Palace Ceremonies and meets with the Foreign Minister of Georgia David Zalkaliani. Discussion about the bilateral relations between the two countries.

5:15 pm Meeting ends

5:45 pm Delegation returns to Marriott Hotel

Wednesday, September 8th, 2021

7:30 am two members (Carol Miller and Ron Estes) were taken to Airport to board the flight to Istanbul and then to the Dulles flight. They had to attend an important committee meeting in DC. Due to the difference in the time zone, members will arrive in Dulles 7:05pm on the 8th.

8:30- 9:15 am Breakfast buffet

9:30 am Delegation departs Hotel and takes a walk through downtown/oldtown Tbilisi.

11:00 pm Delegation arrives in Restaurant Seidabadi and meets with 3 members from 2 opposition parties (different than previous 5 opposition parties).

12:30 pm Meeting ends

12:45 pm Delegation arrives in the Residence of Head of Georgian Orthodox Church and meets with the Senior members of the Church. Discussion about the very sensitive social issues to the church and about the U.S. role in it.

1:30 pm Meeting with the Catholicos Patriarch of Georgian Orthodox Church Ilia the 2nd.

2:00 pm Meeting ends and the Delegation heads to the Georgian Parliament.

2:30 pm Meeting with the members of the Georgian Parliament

3:30 pm Meeting ends.

4:00 pm Delegation arrives in Ministry of Defense of Georgia and meets with the Minister of Defense Juansher Burchuladze.

5:00 pm Meeting ends.

5:30 pm Delegation arrives at the Ministry of Economy and meets with the Minister Natia Turnava.

6:30 pm Meeting ends.

7:00 pm Delegation arrives at the Georgian House Restaurant and has a dinner with the Defense Minister of Georgia Juansher Burchuladze.

8:00 pm Dinner ends

8:30 pm Delegation arrives at the Marriott Hotel.

Thursday, September 9th, 2021

7:30 am Members of Congress and the USGFA travel to Tbilisi Airport and take flight back to the United States.

Thursday, September 9th, 2021

Congressman Alex Mooney arrives in Washington, DC.

Congressmen Kelly Armstrong and Bryan Steil arrived to Chicago O'hara.



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 website (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:
US-GEORGIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION
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):
Carol Miller, Jim Baird, John Rose, Alex Mooney, Ron Estes, Andy Harris, Dan Crenshaw, Bryan
5. Yes ☒ No ☐ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: September 4th, 2021 Date of return: September 9th, 2021
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
b. Destination(s): Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia
c. City of return: Washington, DC
8. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - 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 only one of the following:**
 - a. ☒ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; OR
 - b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; OR
 - 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 you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

10. ☒ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities 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 only one of the following:*
- 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. ☐ *Not Applicable.* 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:
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 the box.*
15. *Check only one.* I represent that either:
- 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):
\$75
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: Stamba Hotel City: Tbilisi Cost Per Night: \$200
- Reason(s) for Selecting: Convenient location for meetings and close proximity government buildings
- 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 the box.*



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$5000	\$600	\$225.00
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$5000	\$225.00

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

19. Check only one:

- a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; OR
b. ☐ Not Applicable. Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: 07/29/2021

Name: Melory Tsipouria

Title: President

Organization: US-Georgia Friendship Association

Address: 1642 Myra ct Chula Vista, CA 91911

Email: melory.t@usgfa.org

Telephone: (619) 606-5544

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov | 202-225-7103
More information and forms available at ethics.house.gov

USA-GEORGIA, CONTINIUED ENGAGMENT

DRAFT

Tbilisi, Georgia overnight September 6, 7, 8 -2021

Delegation members: (confirmed)

Alex Mooney- Member of Congress

Bryan Steil-Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong-Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw-Member of Congress

Trent Kelley-Member of Congress

Jason Smith-Member of Congress

Carroll Miller-Member of Congress

John Rose-Member of Congress

Ron Estes-Member of Congress

Jim Baird-Member of Congress

Andrew Skale- US-Georgia Friendship Association

Melory Tsipouria- US-Georgia Friendship Association

Saturday, September 4th, 2021

Participants begin to travel to Tbilisi, Georgia from Washington, DC.

(Plane leaves Dulles Airport at 11:15 pm)

Sunday, September 5th, 2021, Participants arrive in Istanbul, Turkey at 4:05pm.

8:40 pm flight to Tbilisi, Georgia.

11:55 pm Delegation arrives in Tbilisi, Georgia.

9:00 am Delegation checks in to Stamba Hotel. (14 Kostava St, Tbilisi, Georgia)

Monday, September 6th, 2021

9:45-10:15 am Breakfast buffet

10:45 am Meeting with the Foreign Minister of Georgia David Zalkaliani

11:30 am meeting ends

11:45am Delegation travels to Khurvaleti, Gori to the occupation zone.

12:15 pm Delegation arrives in the occupation zone and have discussion with the Georgian Security services about the challenges the Russian occupation presents almost daily by moving occupation fence further into Georgia proper and in addition to that, frequently and illegally detaining Georgian citizens on the Georgia controlled territories, which ends up by imprisoning them, asking for ransom and sometimes killing them (Giga Otkhazia and Archil Tatumashvili, are the names of the Georgians that were brutally assassinated after their illegal detentions).

1:15 pm Delegation leaves the occupation zone and heads to Mtskheta, an ancient Capital of Georgia.

1:45 pm Delegation arrives in Mtskheta and visits Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. Although current version was completed in the 11th Century, but original church dates back in the 4th Century and today it is recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Delegation tours the site and surrounding areas.

3:30 pm Delegation returns to Tbilisi.

4:30 pm Meeting with the President and other members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia. Discussion about the investment/business climate for American businessman/companies in Georgia.

7:00 pm working dinner with the members of the Am/Cham Discussion continues between members of Congress and the members of the Georgian Am/Cham.

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas.

8:45 pm Dinner ends

9:00 pm Delegation returns to Hotel Stamba.

Tuesday, September 7th, 2021

8:30- 9:15 am Breakfast buffet

9:30 am Delegation departs Hotel to Krtsanisi military base in outskirts of Tbilisi.

10:30 am Delegation tours Krtsanisi military base, where U.S. military personnel is training Georgian military forces. Discussion with the base Georgian officials including Deputy Defense Minister Lela Chikovani, as well as U.S. Officials about progress and challenges of this long-term military cooperation.

11:30 am Delegation leaves the Krtsanisi military base and departs to Kachreti, Kakheti region (Georgian wine country)

12:30 pm Delegation arrives in Hotel Kachreti Ambassadors.

1:15 pm In the conference hall of the Hotel delegation meets with the Minister of Economy of Georgia, Natia Turnava.

Discussion about the challenges Georgian economy faces and the discussion about the free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

3:00 pm Working lunch with the Minister of Economy (Natia Turnava) and her team.

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas.

4:15 pm lunch ends and the delegation departs to Tbilisi.

5:30 pm delegation arrives in Tbilisi and visits historic old town

7:30 pm Delegation arrives back to Hotel Samba.

Wednesday, September 8th, 2021

8:30 am Breakfast in Samba Hotel

9:30 am Breakfast ends

10:00 am Meeting with the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia Kakha Kuchava and the members of the majority in the parliament. Discussion about the upcoming local elections and how it could become a referendum for early Parliamentary elections per agreement brokered by the Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Dignan. (Meeting takes place in the Parliament of Georgia)

11:00 am meeting ends

11:00 am Meeting with the heads of the Opposition parties in the Parliament. Again, discussion about the upcoming elections and what does opposition perceives as challenges surrounding election climate in Georgia.



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Kelly Armstrong
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
US-Georgia Friendship Association
3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel: Tbilisi, Georgia
4. a. Date of Departure: 09/4/2021 Date of Return: 09/10/2021
b. Yes ☒ No ☐ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: 09/09/2021-09/10/2021
5. a. Yes ☐ No ☒ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? If yes:
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
(2) Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
(3) Yes ☐ No ☐ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:
6. a. Yes ☐ No ☒ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:
7. Yes ☒ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

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 Congress, I must be apprised of foreign policy issues affecting the United States. Georgia houses an important US military base that we will be visiting. Furthermore, Georgia was invaded by Russia in 2008, impacting the geopolitical landscape of the region. It is important for me to meet with Georgian leaders and see firsthand the challenges they face, as well as the challenges the United States faces in the region.
9. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?
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.

Signature of Employing Member

Date 08/20/2021

Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Chairman
Jackie Walorski, Indiana
Ranking Member

Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Dean Phillips, Minnesota
Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mondaire Jones, New York

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Dave Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota



ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

David W. Arrojo
Counsel to the Chairman

Kelle A. Strickland
Counsel to the Ranking Member

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

September 3, 2021

The Honorable Kelly Armstrong
U.S. House of Representatives
1004 Longworth 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 Tbilisi, Georgia,¹ scheduled for September 4 to 10, 2021, sponsored by U.S. Georgia Friendship Association and Melory Tsipouria. We note that this trip includes one day at your personal expense.

This approval represents the Committee's determination that the proposed trip complies with relevant House rules, federal laws, and Travel Regulations promulgated by the Committee. You should engage in your own assessment of the risks and implications of engaging in travel during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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 \$415 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.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

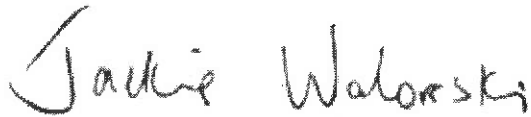
Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$415] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore E. Deutch". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and "D".

Theodore E. Deutch
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackie Walorski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jackie Walorski
Ranking Member

TED/JW:trs