





# 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.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto: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: Cory Mills

**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): Cory Mills

Office Address: 346 Cannon House Office Building

Telephone Number: 202-225-4025

Email Address of Contact Person: cd.treadwell@gmail.com

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 on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Cory Mills
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Human Rights and Democracy Foundation  
Syrian American Alliance for Peace and Prosperity
3. City and State  Foreign Country of Travel: Syria
4. a. Date of Departure: 4/14/25 Date of Return: 4/20/25  
b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
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, invitation, 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 who sits on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and House  
Armed Services Committee this programming will be very educational to my work in  
Congress.

9. Yes  No  Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# 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's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**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. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip: \_\_\_\_\_

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, services, or in-kind assistance 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): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Return: \_\_\_\_\_

7. a. City of departure: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Destination(s): \_\_\_\_\_

c. City of return: \_\_\_\_\_

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. \_\_\_\_\_
- 

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 the statement is true by clicking the 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 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): \_\_\_\_\_
    - 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: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
- 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.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total <b>Transportation</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Lodging</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Meal</b> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee			
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	<b>Other</b> 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		

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

**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. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of your organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Syrian American Alliance for Peace and Prosperity)

3. Yes  No  Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?

4. Yes  No  Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?

5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:

a.  Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**

b.  Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to

Destination: \_\_\_\_\_ on Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**

c.  Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).

6. **Check only one:**

a.  My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**

b.  My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.

7. **I certify by my signature that**

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).



## **SYRIAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY**

Syrian American Alliance for Peace and Prosperity

Congressional Delegation To Syria  
With financial support from, Human Rights and Democracy 501(c)(3)

Damascus, Syria

April 17-21, 2025

### **MISSION GOALS:**

The purpose of this trip is to engage with local diplomats, policy experts, and regional stakeholders to assess Syria's current political, economic, and security situation. The delegation will explore opportunities for international collaboration in humanitarian aid, healthcare, economic stabilization, and counterterrorism efforts. The trip will provide firsthand insight into Syria's role in Middle Eastern geopolitics, its challenges in achieving national security, and its potential impact on U.S. national security and regional stability. Additionally, the delegation will assess the situation of religious minorities, including Christians, in the context of the ongoing recovery and rebuilding process.

### **RELEVANCE TO OFFICIAL DUTIES:**

This visit is highly relevant to Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee as they consider U.S. foreign policy toward Syria and the broader Middle East. The trip will provide valuable perspectives on diplomatic, security, and economic factors that will inform future legislative decisions and policy development in relation to Syria, national security, and regional peace.

### **LOCATION:**

The delegation will travel to Damascus and surrounding areas to meet with local diplomats, international representatives, and regional stakeholders. The delegation will also visit historical religious sites and churches, assessing the conditions of religious minorities and exploring Syria's potential for cultural and economic recovery.

## Thursday, April 17: Travel

### Congressman Cory Mills – Full Itinerary

- 9:20 AM Departure: Orlando (MCO) Flight **TK 8613**
- 11:37 AM Arrival: Washington D.C. (IAD)
- 1:30 PM Departure: Washington D.C. (IAD) Flight **TK 188**
- 6:35 AM Arrival: Istanbul (IST) **April 18**
- 8:00 AM Departure: Istanbul (IST) Flight **TK 846**
- 10:00 AM Arrival at Damascus

### Congressman Marlin Stutzman – Full Itinerary

- 11:25 AM Departure: Chicago O'Hare (ORD) Flight **TK 186**
- 6:35 AM Arrival: Istanbul (IST) **April 18:**
- 8:00 AM Departure: Istanbul (IST) Flight **TK 846**
- 10:00 AM Arrival at Damascus International Airport.

Transport to Jobar by Government Armored Vehicle –

Note: An armored vehicle was provided to each congressman by the government in addition to an additional security vehicle with 4 security officers.

## Friday, April 18: Field Visit

- 11:00–11:15PM Transportation to Jobar by Government Armored Vehicle
- 11:15–12:45PM Field Visit: Post-Conflict Devastation in Jobar

Following brief introductions, Members will participate in a guided visit led by members of the SAAPP the official host of the delegation, and local community representatives. The visit will offer a foundational understanding of the widespread destruction in Jobar, a once-vibrant residential district located just a few miles outside the city center of Damascus.

Jobar experienced some of the most extensive devastation during the Syrian conflict, with reports indicating that over 90% of the neighborhood's structures were damaged or destroyed. Once home to significant cultural and religious heritage—including the historic Eliyahu Hanavi Synagogue—Jobar now stands largely in ruins, serving as a stark and urgent symbol of the consequences of prolonged urban warfare.

This site visit is critical to the execution of the trip, as it allows Members of Congress to observe the real-time consequences of war on civilian infrastructure in rural and suburban Syria. It also provides essential context for evaluating humanitarian needs, long-term recovery planning, the return of displaced populations, and the broader impact of conflict on regional stability and economic recovery.

**Presenter:** SAAPP Delegation Leads and Community Representatives  
**Location:** Jobar District, Eastern Suburbs of Damascus, Syria

- 12:45–1:00 PM Transportation to Sheraton Hotel by Government Armored Vehicle
- 1:00 – 2:30 PM Lunch Break
- 2:30–3:00 PM Transportation to the Old City in Damascus by Government Armored Vehicle
- 3:00–5:30 PM Cultural Visit: Historic Churches and Religious Heritage in Old Damascus

Members will participate in a guided cultural visit to explore prominent religious and historical sites in Old Damascus, including St. Paul’s Window, the Chapel of Ananias, the Umayyad Mosque, and the ancient Souq Al-Hamidiyyeh.

These landmarks reflect Syria’s rich interfaith history and centuries-old religious diversity. The churches and mosques in this area continue to serve as vital institutions for community identity and resilience despite the nation’s conflict. The delegation will receive briefings from local church representatives to better understand the current challenges facing religious communities in Damascus and their role in post-conflict recovery and reconciliation.

This visit supports the delegation’s broader mission of evaluating cultural preservation, religious freedom, and the conditions of Christian and other religious minorities within Syria’s recovery process.

**Presenters:** SAAPP Delegation Leads and Local Religious Representatives  
**Location:** Old City of Damascus, Syria

- 5:30 – 5:45 PM Transportation back to Sheraton Hotel by Government Armored Vehicle
- 5:45 PM Congressman Cori Mills met in Sheraton Hotel lobby to depart to Presidential Palace
- 5:45 – 6:00 PM Transportation to Presidential Palace by Government Armored Vehicle

- 6:00–7:30 PM Congressman Cori participated in a one-hour and thirty-minute private meeting with President Al-Sharaa and Foreign Minister Al-Shebani. This meeting was conducted at the Presidential Palace in a secure and official setting. Due to the sensitive nature of the topics discussed—including U.S.-Syria relations, humanitarian concerns, and regional stability—it was essential that the conversation take place in a one-on-one format to allow for open, direct, and candid dialogue. Congressman Cori Mills specifically requested to meet with President Al-Sharaa alone and was not accompanied by Congressman Stutzman. No SAAPP members or external personnel were present during the meeting to preserve the confidentiality and diplomatic integrity of the discussion.
- 7:30 – 7:45 PM Transportation to Abdul Hamid Akel Residence by Government Armored Vehicle  
Private Dinner with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- A private dinner hosted by Mr. Abdul Hamid Al-Akel, a board member of SAAPP from Columbus, Ohio and four board members of SAAPP.
- 7:45 – 8:45 PM Discussions will focus on regional diplomacy, sanctions policy, humanitarian coordination, and economic recovery strategies in post-conflict Syria. This private setting offers a platform for open, candid dialogue to support long-term stability, mutual understanding, and constructive U.S. engagement in the region.  
Attendees: Congressman Cory, Congressman Stutzman, Representatives from the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Members of the Syrian American Alliance for Peace and Prosperity
- Location:** Abdul Hamid Al-Akel Residence, Mahdi Bin Baraka St, 1st Fl. Umayyad Square, Damascus, Syria
- Transportation Back to Sheraton Hotel by Government Armored Vehicle
- 6:00 – 6:15 pm Congressman Marlin Stutzman met in lobby to depart to dinner with SAAPP members and Delegation Participants by Government Armored Vehicle
- 6:15 PM Arrive at Sah Al Nawm restaurant for dinner.
- 6:15 – 8:15 PM Dinner at Sah Al Nawm with SAAPP members and delegation participants.
- 8:15 – 9:15 PM Following dinner, Congressman Stutzman departed in the same government armored vehicle to a scenic overlook atop Mount Qasyoun, which offers a panoramic view of Damascus.
- 9:15 – 9:30 PM Transportation Back to Sheraton Hotel by Government Armored Vehicle

## Saturday, April 19: Field Visit

- 8:30 – 9:30 PM Breakfast at the Sheraton Hotel
- 9:30 PM Meet in Sheraton Hotel lobby to depart to Sednaya and Maaloula
- 9:30–10:15 AM Transportation by Government Armored Vehicle to Sednaya Military Prison
- 10:15–11:15 AM Field Visit: Sednaya Military Prison – Observational Briefing on Human Rights and Detention Practices

Members will participate in a guided observational visit to Sednaya Military Prison, a facility operated by the Syrian military and located in the Qalamoun Mountains. The visit will include a briefing on international human rights concerns and the detention conditions in post-conflict Syria. Subject to access, Members may also engage in a brief discussion with legal or humanitarian experts monitoring the situation.

This visit is essential to understanding Syria's current approach to detention and justice systems, and to assessing broader human rights implications as they relate to international engagement and post-conflict accountability.

**Presenters:** Prison Administration Officials and representative from the white helmets

**Location:** Sednaya Military Prison, Qalamoun Mountains, Syria

- 11:15–11:45 AM Transportation by Government Armored Vehicle to Churches and Monasteries of Maaloula
- 11:45–12:45 PM Cultural Visit: Churches and Monasteries of Maaloula – Interfaith Dialogue and Heritage Preservation

Following the visit to Sednaya, Members will continue to the historic town of Maaloula, one of the few remaining places where Aramaic—the language of Jesus—is still spoken. The delegation will visit prominent churches and monasteries and engage in cultural discussions with Christian religious leaders.

This visit highlights Syria's deep-rooted religious diversity and the resilience of its Christian communities. It also provides critical context for ongoing efforts to protect religious heritage, promote interfaith dialogue, and ensure the inclusion of minority voices in Syria's recovery process.

**Presenters:** Local Christian Religious Leaders and Church Representatives

**Location:** Maaloula, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria

12:45–1:15PM Transportation Back to Sheraton Hotel by Government Armored Vehicle

1:30–2:30 PM Lunch at Sheraton Hotel

2:45–3:15 PM Official Meeting: Abdul Salam Haykal, Minister of Communications and Technology

Members will meet with Abdul Salam Haykal, the Minister of Communications and Technology. Prior to his appointment, Minister Haykal was a prominent businessman based in the United Arab Emirates, specializing in technology and media ventures. The discussion will focus on Syria's digital infrastructure development, strategies for technological innovation, and opportunities for international collaboration in the tech sector.

3:15–3:45 PM Official Meeting: Mohammad Nidal al-Shaar, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade

Members will engage with Mohammad Nidal al-Shaar, the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade. Minister al-Shaar, an economist educated at George Washington University, previously served in the same role from 2011 to 2012 and was reappointed on March 29, 2025. The meeting will explore Syria's economic recovery plans, trade policies, and potential avenues for international economic partnerships.

3:45 – 4:00 PM Coffee Break

4:00–4:30 PM Official Meeting: Raed al-Saleh, Minister of Disaster Management and Emergency Response

Members will meet with Raed al-Saleh, the Minister of Disaster Management and Emergency Response. Minister al-Saleh previously served as the head of the White Helmets; a volunteer rescue organization renowned for its humanitarian efforts during the Syrian conflict. The discussion will focus on disaster response strategies, emergency preparedness, and the integration of civil defense mechanisms into national policy frameworks.

4:30–5:00 PM Official Meeting: Hind Kabawat, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor

Members will engage with Hind Kabawat, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor. Minister Kabawat, a seasoned civil society activist and interfaith dialogue expert, is the first woman appointed to the new Syrian transitional government. The conversation will address social welfare programs, labor

market reforms, and initiatives to promote social cohesion and support for vulnerable populations in post-conflict Syria.

5:00–7:00 PM Break

7:00 – 9:00 PM Closing Dinner with Key Ministers, Diplomats, and SAAPP Members

To conclude the day's engagements, Members will participate in a private closing dinner with the four key ministers—Abdul Salam Haykal, Mohammad Nidal al-Shaar, Raed al-Saleh, and Hind Kabawat—alongside senior diplomats and members of the Syrian American Alliance for Peace and Prosperity (SAAPP).

The dinner will serve as an opportunity to reflect on the day's discussions, consolidate key takeaways from each ministry, and further explore pathways for continued dialogue and cooperation across sectors critical to Syria's recovery.

**Attendees:** Congressman Cory, Congressman Stutzman, Ministers Haykal, al-Shaar, al-Saleh, and Kabawat, Syrian Diplomatic Officials, SAAPP Delegation Members

**Location:** Sheraton, Damascus, Syria

9:30 – 9:45 PM Transportation to Presidential Palace by Government Armored Vehicle

10:00 – 11: 00 PM Congressman Stutzman held a one-hour meeting with President Alsharaa and Foreign Minister Shebani at the Presidential Palace. The discussion focused on diplomatic and humanitarian issues, conducted in a secure setting that enabled open and substantive exchange.

11:00 – 11:15 PM Transportation back to Sheraton Hotel by Government Armored Vehicle

## Sunday, April 20: Travel

### Congressman Marlin Stutzman – Full Itinerary

9:30 AM Depart for Damascus International Airport – Transportation by Government Armored Vehicle

10:00 AM Arriva at Damascus Airport

12:00 PM Departure: Damascus (DAM) Flight **TK 847**

2:05 PM Arrival: Istanbul (IST)

- 3:00 PM Transportation to Swiss Hotel Bosphere Istanbul via Private Car arranged by SAAPP member Oubab Khalil
- 6:15 PM Transportation to Office of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Via private car arranged by SAAPP member Oubab Khalil
- 7:45 – 9:15 PM Meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Mr. Yilmaz
- 9:15 – 9:45 PM Congressman Stutzman was transported back to Swiss Hotel on The Bosphorus via private car arranged by SAAPP member Oubab Khalil

**Monday, April 21:**

- 6:30 AM Departure: Istanbul (IST) Flight **TK 185**
- 9:40 AM Arrival: Chicago O'Hare (ORD)

**This concludes Congressman Stutzman's full travel itinerary.**

**Congressman Cory Mills – Full Itinerary**

- 7:30 AM Depart for Sheraton Hotel to Beirut Rafik Hariri International Airport– Transportation by Private Car arranged by SAAPP member Oubab Khalil
- 9:30 AM Arrive at Rafik Hariri International Airport
- 11:40 AM Depart for Beirut Rafik Hariri International Airport – Transportation by Private Car arranged by SAAPP member Oubab Khalil  
Flight Number: ME263
- 01: 35 PM Arrival at Istanbul Airport
- 2:00 PM Transportation to Swiss Hotel Bosphere Istanbul via Private Car arranged by SAAPP member Oubab Khalil
- 6:15 PM Transportation to Office of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs via Private Car arranged by SAAPP member Oubab Khalil
- 7:45 – 9:15 PM Meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Mr. Yilmaz
- 9:15 PM Transportation to Lulu Lounge Istanbul via Private Car arranged by SAAPP member Oubab Khalil
- 1:00 AM Return to Bosphorus Hotel, where everyone bid Congressman Cory Mills Goodbye

**Wednesday, April 23:**

3:40PM Departure from Istanbul, Türkiye – Flight Number: TK0007

7:45 PM Arrival at Washington Dulles Airport.

**This concludes Congressman Mills' full travel itinerary.**

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*  
Mark DeSaulnier, California  
*Ranking Member*

John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York  
Ashley Hinson, Iowa  
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina  
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland  
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas  
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Jordan Downs  
*Chief of Staff to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Cory Mills  
U.S. House of Representatives  
346 Cannon 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 Syria,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for April 17 to 21, 2025, sponsored by the Human Rights and Democracy Foundation, doing business as the Syrian American Alliance for Peace and Prosperity.

Committee travel regulations require that you submit your complete pre-trip approval request to the Committee at least 30 days before the commencement of the trip or it will not be granted. Despite your failure to do so in this instance, we are approving your current request. However, any future requests should adhere to the 30-day requirement.

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 \$480 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 \$480] 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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>.

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,



Michael Guest  
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier  
Ranking Member

MG/MD:kjf