

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

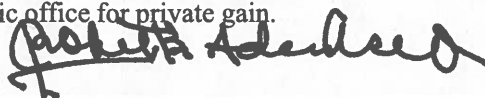
This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance 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: Robert B. Aderholt
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Robert Hayes Aderholt OR None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 10, 2025 Return: August 18, 2025
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None
4. Departure City: Birmingham, AL Destination: Livingstone, Zambia Return City: Birmingham, AL
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program); Gates Foundation (formerly Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): Congressional Conference on Global Role and U.S. Strategic Priorities. Through a combination of roundtable discussions led by subject experts, plus visits to health, agriculture and other program sites, participants will explore security, economic, and development challenges confronting Africa and how U.S. is responding.
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: 08/29/2025

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 in 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.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

2. Travel Destination(s): Livingstone, Zambia

3. Date of Departure: August 10, 2025 Date of Return: August 18, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Robert Aderholt and Robert Hayes Aderholt

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	\$8,952	\$1,975	\$577	\$1,392
Accompanying Family Member	\$8,952		\$577	\$1,392

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: August 28, 2025

Name: Charles Dent Title: Vice President

Organization: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

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

Address: 2300 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037

Telephone: 202-736-5859 Email: lisa.jones@aspeninstitute.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.

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:

The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

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: Gates Foundation
(formerly Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

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 appendix

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

6. Date of Departure: August 10, 2025 Date of Return: August 18, 2025

7. a. City of departure: Birmingham, AL

b. Destination(s): Livingstone, Zambia

c. City of return: Birmingham, AL

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.**
- I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - 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.**
- 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*
 - 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:
- With Africa facing complex security, economic, and development challenges amid growing geopolitical competition, this convening continues AICP's mission of helping lawmakers engage thoughtfully with the most pressing issues of our time. Please see house appendix (attached) for
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
 - Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
 - 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:
- 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**
 - The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 - Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
\$114
 - Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
Livingstone, Zambia specifically was chosen as the US Government is a significant develop
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: The Royal Livingstone Ho City: Livingstone, Zambia Cost Per Night: \$395
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Facility has required technology, meeting space, and is able to provide food
- 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$8,827	\$1,975	\$570
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$8,827	-0-	\$570


	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	\$1,318	Security, Visa, Private meeting space, AV conference services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$1,318	Security, Visa, Private meeting space, AV conference services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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: July 9, 2025
 Name: Charles Dent Title: Vice President-The Aspen
 Organization: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
 Address: 2300 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037
 Email: lisa.jones@aspeninstitute.org Telephone: 202-736-5859

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or 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: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
2. Name of your organization: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
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**
 - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
 - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
 - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
 - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Mark Iozzi Digitally signed by Mark Iozzi Date: 2025.07.01 10:49:38 -04'00' Date: 07/01/2025

Name: Mark Iozzi Title: Senior Program Officer

Organization: Gates Foundation

Address: 1300 I St NW, Washington, DC 20005

Telephone: 206-617-2686 Email: mark.iozzi@gatesfoundation.org

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



CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM

aspen Institute

The Honorable Robert Aderholt

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0306

Dear Representative Aderholt,

I would like to invite you and Caroline to our bipartisan, bicameral congressional conference on ***Global Role and U.S. Strategic Priorities in Livingstone, Zambia and Botswana from August 11-18, 2025***, including travel dates. Please get back to us with your interest to attend the conference **by COB Friday, May 16, 2025**. These conference spots fill up quickly, so please RSVP as soon as possible. This invitation does not guarantee your participation in the conference.

This educational conference will address a variety of important issues that have consequences for both the United States and Africa. Through a combination of roundtable discussions led by subject experts, plus visits to health, agriculture and other program sites, participants will explore security, economic, and development challenges confronting Africa and how the United States is responding. Conversations will explore threats to U.S. national security across Africa and the increasing presence of China and Russia on the continent. Access to critical minerals is significant to both economic development across Africa and to U.S. markets. Zambia plays a key role in the American and European-backed construction of the Lobito Corridor that will link ports on the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, passing through regions with some of the largest deposits of cobalt, copper, and other critical minerals. The agenda will also focus on other development sectors, including health, food security, and wildlife trafficking and conservation challenges confronting large portions of the continent. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with Zambian politicians and those from other regional nations who will share their views on the future of U.S.-African relations.

Conference attendance is by invitation only. No outside observers, no lobbyists, no congressional staff, and no media are allowed to participate. All conference sessions are off-the-record. No foreign governments are accepted to fund the Aspen Institute Congressional Program. As required by the Senate and House ethics rules, we will provide congressional participants with ethics private sponsor forms completed and signed.

Travel expenses, including business class airfare, meals, and lodging will be paid for by the Aspen Institute; no expenses for entertainment or recreation are paid for in compliance with ethics rules.

The Congressional Program is part of the Aspen Institute, Inc. a nonprofit organization founded in 1949. The Congressional Program was created to promote leadership on public policy by bringing legislators together from both political parties with internationally renowned scholars for high level discussions and analysis. Since our program's inception, more than 598 members of Congress have participated in our 160 domestic and international conferences.

We hope you can join us for this important conference.

Sincerely,

Charlie Dent

Charles W. Dent
Former Member, U.S. Congress (PA-15th, 2005-2018)
Vice President and Executive Director
Aspen Institute Congressional Program
2300 N Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20037
Mobile: (484) 553-1837



**CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRAM**
aspen institute

US-Africa Relations in Uncertain Times

August 11-18, 2025 | Livingstone, Zambia

AGENDA¹

MONDAY, August 11:

U.S. participants depart the U.S. throughout the day.

TUESDAY, August 12:

U.S. participants arrive in Livingstone, Zambia throughout the day.

6 – 7 PM: Pre-Dinner Remarks:

U.S. Diplomacy in Africa: A Scene-Setter and Welcoming Remarks

As changes in U.S. foreign policy unfold, American diplomats across the African continent are confronting new challenges as well as seeking emerging opportunities to advance U.S. interests. The delegation will be welcomed by the current American Ambassador to Zambia and hear his thoughts about the top diplomatic priorities throughout the region.

Speaker:

Michael Gonzales, U.S. Ambassador to Zambia

¹ Congressional Program Executive Director Charlie Dent moderates the discussion sessions, recognizes members of Congress who have questions, and is assisted by a timekeeper to ensure the conversation is quick paced and every member of Congress has an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the issues.

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on American diplomacy in Africa and other topics that are part of the conference agenda.

WEDNESDAY, August 13:

7:30– 8:30 AM: Breakfast available to all participants

7:30– 8:30 AM: Experts and Scholars meet for breakfast with Charlie Dent to review conference procedures

8:30 – 8:45 AM: Introduction and Framework of the Conference

This conference is organized into roundtable conversations, working lunches, and pre-dinner remarks. This segment will highlight how the conference will be conducted, how those with questions will be recognized, and how responses will be timed to allow for as much engagement as possible.

Speaker:

Charlie Dent, *Vice President, Aspen Institute;*
Executive Director, Congressional Program

8:45 – 10 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

***Chartering a New Course for the Future of U.S. Foreign Assistance:
Implications for Africa***

Since January 2025, the Trump Administration has both implemented and proposed substantial changes in America's foreign aid policies and resource allocations. In recent months, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been dismantled with thousands of staff losing their jobs. Over 80 percent of the Agency's programs have been terminated while what remains is being folded into the State Department. The President's FY2026 budget request cuts State Department and other international affairs agencies by 49 percent compared with current levels and seeks the additional rescission of \$21.6 billion in previously appropriated funds. Secretary of State Rubio justifies this reorientation of foreign aid, stating that going forward, the Department will only fund programs that make America "stronger, safer, and more prosperous" and eliminate divisive and ineffective foreign assistance activities.

For Africa, as U.S. foreign assistance downsizes, the State Department has outlined another approach for engagement with the continent based on commercial diplomacy with greater emphasis placed on supporting market reforms in coordination with African governments, strengthening the region's private sector, investing in infrastructure projects in priority countries and expanding opportunities for American businesses. The goal, according to senior State Department officials, is "to increase U.S. exports and investment in Africa, eliminate trade deficits and drive mutual prosperity".

These actions have been sharply criticized by those who believe in the three-pronged approach of defense, diplomacy and development as essential to American national security and economic interests globally, including in Africa. The sudden and chaotic nature of aid terminations, critics say, has badly damaged America's reputation as a reliable partner, left African finance ministries scrambling to cover financing gaps created by the U.S. withdrawal, placed the health and well-being of aid beneficiaries in jeopardy, and invited others, in some cases American adversaries such as China, to fill the vacuum left by the United States. They believe that "trade not aid" is a false dichotomy and question why it can't be both.

Panelists will discuss the implications of this reorientation of U.S. engagement with Africa and what might be the vision of foreign assistance moving forward.

Speakers:

Ambassador Mark Green, *President Emeritus of the Wilson Center, former U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania and former Member of Congress*

Ambassador Mark Dybul, *Professor at the Medical Center of Georgetown University, former Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and former U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator leading PEPFAR*

10 – 10:15 AM: Break

10:15 – 11:45 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

America's National Security Posture in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges

While the African continent is rarely perceived as central to U.S. national security and economic interests, currently and in the years to come, the people and countries in Africa will play a critical role in confronting global threats and challenges that are equally vital to America's well-being. For the second year in a row, the Sahel region of Africa has been characterized as the "epicenter" of global terrorism. Terrorist groups, such as ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and Al-Shabaab, take advantage of fragile pockets across the continent, posing direct threats to American interests. Africa retains 30 percent of the world's supply of critical minerals that are essential for U.S. national, economic, and

environmental security. Africa also finds itself increasingly entangled in U.S. competition and confrontation with China and Russia. Senior American military leaders express concern over the uptick in China's efforts to replicate American defense training and military education exchanges across the continent. At the same time, these leaders are sending a message to their African counterparts that American efforts are focused on building the capacity of militaries in the region to manage their own security and to conduct independent operations.

A representative from the U.S. Africa Command and a retired senior military officer will survey U.S. national security interests on the continent, the nexus of security with American development and diplomatic efforts, as well as discuss policy opportunities to tackle pressing security challenges.

Speaker:

Vice Admiral Matt Kohler (USN, Ret.), currently a member of the Cohen Group

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM: Working Lunch

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on the future of foreign assistance and threats to American national security across the African continent.

1 – 4 PM: Educational Site Visits, including drive times

Community Health Programs Focused on HIV, Malaria and Malnutrition

The delegation will be divided into small groups in order to permit personal conversations with community health care workers and household members to learn about the objectives of each program and hear how these interventions have impacted their lives. Each group will visit two or three of the sites and see the others on August 15.

Members will visit a program that aims to mitigate the impact of HIV and improve the health of adolescents and vulnerable children using a family-centered approach. The project is supported by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a program launched by President George W. Bush in 2003 and is credited with saving 25 million lives, mostly in Africa. Another site will showcase the work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria where young members of the community serve as mentors to their peers in confronting sensitive health and social challenges. At another Global Fund site, participants will learn how a small village prevents malaria through spraying, bed nets and medications. Founded in 2002 with the U.S. having been the largest donor, the Global Fund has reduced the combined death rates of AIDS, TB and malaria by 61%. Members will also visit a lab that is part of Zambia's National Multi-Pathogen Diagnostic Program where the state-of-the-art facility is able to quickly diagnose infectious disease tests. Finally, groups will observe the work of a Severe Acute

Malnutrition (SAM) clinic where infants who are suffering from insufficient energy, fat, protein and/or other nutrients are treated with the use of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), a highly fortified energy-dense paste. Each of the programs visited during the afternoon have received in the past U.S. government financial support.

6 – 7 PM: Pre-Dinner Remarks:
The Impact of Vaccinating Africa's Children

Speaker:

Dr. Sania Nishtar, CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

With the support of the United States and other international aid donors, since 2000 Gavi has reached 469 million children in Africa with routine immunizations and averted an estimated 12 million future deaths across the continent. Gavi is an important contributor to global health security efforts with a portfolio of 21 infectious disease vaccines, including Ebola, malaria and mpox. Dr. Nishtar will discuss the state of child immunizations in Africa and challenges Gavi faces as financial support for the Alliance faces growing headwinds. At a June 25, 2025 pledging conference, the United States announced that it would no longer contribute to Gavi.

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner with Local Aid Implementing Offices

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas with representatives from non-governmental organizations, including CARE, Project Concern Zambia, Save the Children, CGIAR, and Wildlife Crime Prevention Zambia. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on challenges faced by these organizations during a significant transition in U.S. foreign assistance policy and resources.

THURSDAY, August 14:

7:30– 8:30 AM: Breakfast

8:30 – 10 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

Severe Weather Patterns: Implications for African Food Security

Africa's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, contributing 20% to the continent's GDP and employing more than 60% of the workforce. Nevertheless, recent estimates project that agricultural production will slip by 18% at a time when food supply demands will triple by 2050 due to rapid population increases. Food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, already have grown significantly in recent years as a result of the global pandemic, a deepening climate crisis, land degradation, high energy and fertilizer costs, weakened supply chains, and protracted

conflicts, including the war in Ukraine. According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), in 2024, over 295 million people faced acute hunger in Africa following crop failures and six consecutive dry seasons.

Africa, however, also maintains untapped potential that could help close the agricultural “yield gap” that is less than 25% of what crop production could be. Strengthening local industries would also result in economic diversification and expand millions of skilled jobs. The United States has been at the forefront of partnering with African governments and communities to combat food insecurity through programs supported by USAID’s Feed the Future initiative and humanitarian food assistance, various Millennium Challenge Corporation compacts, and investments by the Development Finance Corporation. Funding for these activities, however, is now in question as the administration has proposed budgets for FY2026 that would essentially eliminate Feed the Future, cut humanitarian aid by over 60%, and reduce MCC funding by 75%. Panelists will discuss the impact of these cuts by the United States and other donors and offer thoughts on innovative ideas to address Africa’s agricultural “yield-gap” through science and research and the expansion of private sector investments.

Speakers:

Dr. Appolinaire Djikeng, *Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute and a Senior Director of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)*

Christopher Barrett, *Professor of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University*

10 – 10:15 AM: Break

10:15 – 11:45 AM: Roundtable Discussion:
Global Health Challenges Across Africa

The importance of a healthy population has long been recognized as a critical element of society’s economic and social development. The United States has a long record of commitment to supporting Africa’s severe health challenges, including the creation of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President’s Malaria Initiative (both first implemented by President George W. Bush), and as the largest donor to Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The U.S. has also played a large role in strengthening healthcare systems throughout Africa, building healthcare infrastructure, and promoting access to essential medicines and vaccines.

As part of the Administration’s reorientation of foreign assistance, however, proposals to reduce funding for health programs, including those in Africa, are before Congress.

The President's budget request for FY2026 would cut appropriations for global health programs by 62%, including reductions for PEPFAR and the Global Fund, and the elimination of funds for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. The State Department says the request prioritizes life-saving assistance to those suffering from HIV/AIDS, TB, polio, and malaria, and for global health security programs that protect Americans at home. But health advocates express deep concerns over these proposed funding cuts, including those for AIDS prevention efforts, and worry that the enormous achievements of programs like PEPFAR could be erased in the coming years.

This panel will focus on the impact of already terminated U.S. health activities in Africa, the implications of steep resource reductions proposed for next year, how governments across the continent are responding and what longer-term policy and financial options are available to maintain and improve a healthy Africa.

Speakers:

Peter Sands, *Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*

Joy Phumaphi, *Executive Secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA)*

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM: Working Lunch

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on food security and health challenges facing Africa.

1 – 4 PM: Educational Site Visits, including drive times

Improving Food Production and Livelihoods and Building Resilient Farming Systems

Members will travel about an hour north of Livingstone to visit a demonstration farm and learn about CGIAR's Southern Africa Rapid Delivery Hub. The program's goal is to provide smallholder farmers with information and innovations needed, using market-based approaches, to mitigate the impact of price spikes for fertilizer and other inputs due to global events such as the war in Ukraine. The delegation will meet with Veronica Mushupa, owner of the farm, and observe innovative techniques of irrigation, planting and mechanization for thrashing and shilling. Members will also be able to interact with other farmers who can speak to the impact on their livelihoods of farming practices they are learning through CGIAR support. Several agriculture scientists and researchers affiliated with CGIAR will also be able to answer questions the group may have.

6 – 7 PM: Pre-Dinner Fireside Chat:

Access to Critical Minerals – Supporting U.S. Interests and Promoting Economic Growth on the Continent

Africa is home to roughly 30% of the world's reserves of critical minerals essential for the global energy transition and technological advancements. Minerals, such as graphite, cobalt, lithium and rare earth elements, are crucial for production of electric vehicles, renewable energy infrastructure, and digital devices. With this degree of mineral wealth, Africa is positioned to leverage these resources that will drive economic development, create jobs, and foster sustainable growth. At the same time, it also raises concerns over how mineral extraction is managed through sustainable and transparent practices that guard against the potential for exploitation.

Another aspect of Africa's mineral wealth is the competition between the United States and China for access to these critical resources. China maintains the dominant position following many years of investment and mining across the continent. The U.S. and Europe, however, are ramping up their own partnerships and activities to counter Chinese influence. The Lobito Corridor, an initiative to link the port in Lobito, Angola, with the mineral-rich areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia through improved transportation infrastructure, is an example of more recent efforts on the part of the United States and the European Union to gain greater access to critical minerals. Kobold Metals, an American company, is a leading player in the Lobito Corridor using its AI-driven mineral exploration technology to develop copper mines in northern Zambia.

Speakers:

Mfikeyi Makayi, *CEO KoBold Metals Africa*

U.S. Development Finance Corporation Representative TBD

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner with Peace Corps Representatives

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas with Natalie Gill-Mensah, Zambia Peace Corps Country Director, and Peace Corps volunteers. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on the work of the Peace Corps in Zambia and the opportunities and challenges confronting Volunteers.

FRIDAY, August 15:

7:30– 8:30 AM: Breakfast

8:30 – 10 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

U.S.-Chinese Competition on the Continent

For the past 25 years, China has been significantly increasing its presence and influence on the African continent, elevating its investment, educational and cultural programs,

diplomatic posture, military cooperation, and political influence. Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched in 2013 as a massive global infrastructure program, further strengthened its commercial engagement with Africa. For 16 consecutive years, China has been the continent's leading bilateral trading partner, outpacing the United States by roughly four-fold. China surpassed the U.S. in terms of foreign direct investment in 2013 and remains the current leader. While trade and FDI have dominated Chinese engagement in Africa, the United States has provided significantly more development and humanitarian assistance to the continent. As the U.S. downsizes its foreign aid footprint across the region, it is an open question whether China will see this as an opportunity to expand its own health, agriculture and other development programs in order to gain greater influence in areas it has previously maintained a far smaller role compared with the United States. Likewise, with plans by the U.S. to expand trade, investment and commercial engagement in Africa, questions remain if it will be enough to offset the large advantage China has held for many years.

Speakers:

Dr. Cobus van Staden, *Managing Editor at the China Global South Project in South Africa*

Gyude Moore, *Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Global Development and former Liberian Minister of Public Works*

10 – 10:15 AM: Break

10:15 – 11:45 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

Policy Reflections and Actions Wrap-up for Members of Congress

This time is set aside for members of Congress to reflect on what they have learned during the conference and discuss their views on implications for U.S. policy. Drawing on the full range of conversations throughout the week, members will seek to identify for each other the most promising takeaways for the United States policy process, with a special focus on opportunities for bipartisan cooperation. This is a members-only conversation.

11:45 – 12:45 PM: Working Lunch

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on reflections throughout the week's presentations and potential policy options for enhancing U.S.-Africa engagement.

1 – 4 PM: Educational Site Visits, including drive times

Community Health Programs Focused on HIV, Malaria and Malnutrition

Similar to the August 13 afternoon schedule, the delegation will be divided into several small groups to permit personal conversations with community health care workers and household members to learn about the objectives of each program and hear how these

interventions have impacted their lives. Today, group members will be able to visit the sites they did not see on August 13.

Members will visit a program that aims to mitigate the impact of HIV and improve the health of adolescents and vulnerable children using a family-centered approach. The project is supported by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a program launched by President George W. Bush in 2003 and is credited with saving 25 million lives, mostly in Africa. Another site will showcase the work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria where young members of the community serve as mentors to their peers in confronting sensitive health and social challenges. At another Global Fund site, participants will learn how a small village prevents malaria through spraying, bed nets and medications. Founded in 2002 with the U.S. having been the largest donor, the Global Fund has reduced the combined death rates of AIDS, TB and malaria by 61%. Members will also visit a lab that is part of Zambia's National Multi-Pathogen Diagnostic Program where the state-of-the-art facility is able to quickly diagnose infectious disease tests. Finally, groups will observe the work of a Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) clinic where infants who are suffering from **insufficient energy, fat, protein and/or other nutrients** are treated with the use of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), a highly fortified energy-dense paste. Each of the programs visited during the afternoon have received in the past U.S. government financial support.

6 – 7 PM: Pre-Dinner Fireside Chat:

Private Sector Innovation for Strengthened Health Systems in Africa

There is an increasing recognition of the important role of the private sector in strengthening health systems and healthcare delivery in Africa. Public-private partnerships are key to leveraging private sector innovations that enhance healthcare delivery, strengthen infrastructure and make resource allocations more efficient. African governments across the continent are recognizing the expertise, technologies and funding that the private sector brings. This discussion will explore the work of Roche, a Swiss multinational healthcare company that is known for its innovative approach to healthcare, and how the private sector can best work with African governments for the well-being of a diverse and growing population on the continent.

Speakers:

Dr. Allan Pemba, *Executive Vice President of Roche*

Jennifer Lotito, *CEO of (Red)*

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on U.S.-Africa policy issues raised over the course of the week's presentations.

SATURDAY, August 16:

6 – 7 AM: Breakfast

7 – 8:30 AM: Drive to Chobe National Park, Botswana

8:30 AM – 4 PM: Educational Site Visit:

Focus on Wildlife Conservation in Africa

Conserving and protecting wildlife in Africa yields multiple benefits in terms of preserving biodiversity, supporting local economies through tourism, and maintaining healthy ecosystems. Community-based conservation efforts, involving local populations in wildlife management, have a strong record in overcoming tensions between animals and humans, safeguarding species, and improving livelihoods of local households.

The delegation will travel to Chobe National Park in Botswana and will be hosted by the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF). ICCF is a non-profit global organization helping partner countries develop protected-area strategies and enhance wildlife management and conservation. Members of Congress will learn about ICCF activities in Botswana and elsewhere in southern Africa to build capacity within governments and communities for conservation and sustainable development, promote collaboration across borders in the management of shared conservation areas, combat illegal wildlife trade and strengthen wildlife security, and promote legal frameworks to address wildlife and zoonotic diseases that will prevent future pandemics.

12 PM – 1 PM: Working Lunch

4 – 5:30 PM: Drive from Chobe National Park to Livingstone, Zambia

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on reflections of the day in Chobe National Park and the importance of wildlife conservation.

SUNDAY, August 17:

Participants depart for the U.S. throughout the day.

HOUSE APPENDIX
Aspen Institute Congressional Program
U.S - Africa Relations in Uncertain Times
August 11-18, 2025

Question 4: Provide names and titles of all House Members you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited.

These members are invited due to their subject matter interest and expertise in the geopolitical issues to be discussed at the conference.

1. Rep. Robert Aderholt: House Committee on Appropriations
2. Rep. Jim Baird: House Committee on Foreign Affairs
3. Rep. Ami Bera: House Committee on Foreign Affairs; House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
4. Rep. Julia Brownley: House Committee on Natural Resources
5. Rep. Salud Carbajal: House Committee on Agriculture
6. Rep. Ed Case: House Committee on Appropriations
7. Rep. John Garamendi: House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
8. Rep. Tony Gonzales: House Committee on Appropriations
9. Rep. Morgan Griffith: House Committee on Energy and Commerce
10. Rep. Jim Himes: House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (Ranking Member)
11. Rep. Steven Horsford: House Committee on Ways and Means
12. Rep. Jonathan Jackson: House Committee on Foreign Affairs
13. Rep. Ted Lieu: House Committee on Foreign Affairs
14. Rep. Tracey Mann: House Committee on Agriculture
15. Rep. Greg Murphy: House Committee on Ways and Means
16. Rep. Dan Newhouse: House Committee on Appropriations; House Committee on Agriculture; House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party
17. Rep. Randy Weber: House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Question 12 (continued):

AICP organized and conducted the conference and selected and invited the attendees. The foundation listed in 3C, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, did not play a role in organizing or conducting the conference. The foundation provided grant funding for the program.

Question 15(b) (continued):

Hosting the conference in Zambia enables us to do in person educational site visits. Finally, Zambia is a reasonable travel destination for a number of our experts and scholars attending from the greater Africa region.

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.

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: Rep. Robert Aderholt

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: 272 Cannon HOB

Telephone Number: 202-225-4876

Email Address of Contact Person: leah.fuenzalida@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 on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

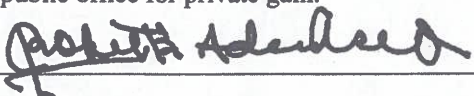
TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Robert Aderholt
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program); Gates Foundation (formerly Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Zambia
4. a. Date of Departure: August 10, 2025 Date of Return: August 18, 2025
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: Robert Hayes Aderholt
(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.
To gain a better understanding of the security, economic, development, and political challenges in Africa, specifically as they relate to international economical and political matters of concern, as well as to engage directly with those issues
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: 08/09/2025

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>

August 7, 2025

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
U.S. House of Representatives
272 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 and your child's proposed trip to Zambia,¹ scheduled for August 10 to 18, 2025, sponsored by Aspen Institute, Inc., Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc. (CARE).

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 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.

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>.

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:mc