



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS


EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. 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: Matthew Thompson
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ OR None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 2/15/23 Return: 2/17/23
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Cambridge, MD Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Accountability Foundation, Conservative Partnership Institute
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:
Lectures on oversight
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 employee; **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 on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 02/28/2023

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Ken Buck Date: 2/28/23

Signature of Supervising Member: 



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: American Accountability Foundation
2. Travel Destination(s): Cambridge, MD
3. Date of Departure: 2/15/2023 Date of Return: 2/17/2023
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): _____

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	\$110	\$198	\$120	N/A
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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: 02/27/2023

Name: Thomas Jones Title: President

Organization: American Accountability Foundation

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

Address: 300 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003

Email: tom@american-af.org Telephone: 202-215-5258

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.



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:
American Accountability Foundation
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:
The Heritage Foundation, Conservative Partnership Institute
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):
See attached.
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: Feb 15 Date of return: Feb 17
7. a. City of departure: Washington DC
b. Destination(s): Cambridge MD
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:
See attached.

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):
The per day cost of meals will be approximately \$60.
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
Location is owned by trip sponsor CPI, economical, and conducive to education and training

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: Decoursey Bridge Rd City: Cambridge, MD Cost Per Night: \$99
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.*



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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	\$110	\$198	\$120
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a	n/a

	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	\$0	\$0
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a

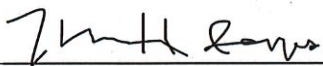
NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check 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: 01/13/2023
 Name: Thomas Jones Title: President
 Organization: American Accountability Foundation
 Address: 300 Independence Ave Se, WDC 20003
 Email: tom@american-af.org Telephone: (202) 215-5258

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



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Matthew Thompson
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
American Accountability Foundation, the Heritage Foundation, Conservative Partnership Institute
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Cambridge, MD
4. a. Date of Departure: 02/15/2023 Date of Return: 02/17/2023
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, 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.
Legislative Correspondent: Training will assist with my official duties which include certain oversight matters.
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 Ken Buck

Date 01/17/2023



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2023

Mr. Matthew Thompson
Office of the Honorable Ken Buck
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Cambridge, MD, scheduled for February 15 to 17, 2023, sponsored by American Accountability Foundation, Conservative Partnership Institute, Inc., and Heritage Foundation.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) 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. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than the reporting threshold from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. That reporting threshold is currently \$415 but is set to adjust in 2023. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael Guest in blue ink.

Michael Guest
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Susan Wild in blue ink.

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:mc

Graham Wise	Congressman Matt Rosendale	Legislative Assistant
Jack Johnstone	Rep. Rosendale	Legislative Aide
Matt Thompson	Congressman Ken Buck	LC
Cameron Erickson	Rep. Andrew S. Clyde (GA-09)	Legislative Assistant
Hannah King	Rep. Andy Harris (MD-01)	Legislative Assistant
Claire Alden	Rep. Lance Gooden	Legislative Assistant
Michael Toomey	Rep Lance Gooden	Legislative Correspondent
Anna Kenna	Congresswoman Greene	Legislative Aide
William Wadsworth	Rep. Mary Miller	Deputy Chief of Staff
Nikolaus Schuster	Congresswoman Greene	Leg Aide

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT BOOTCAMPS

*Presented by the American Accountability Foundation, The Heritage Foundation,
and the Conservative Partnership Institute*

February 15 - 17

DAY ONE

- 9:00 – 11:00 am Travel from Heritage Foundation 214 Mass Ave. to Cambridge, MD
11:00 – 12:00 pm Arrival at CPI Property and Check-in
- 12:00 – 2:00 pm Lunch and **SESSION 1 – Oversight Process, Organization, and Staffing Duties and Responsibilities**
Committee structure, staff assignments, hierarchy, parliamentary authority, the law of oversight, various committee organizations, structures, and approaches.
Discussion of the responsibilities and expectations of an oversight staffer.
Speakers: *TBD*
- 2:00 – 3:30 pm **SESSION 2 – Document Requests and the Freedom of Information Act**
Overview of how to effectively draft requests for information from agencies and witnesses including drafting of Freedom of Information Act Requests.
Speakers: *TBD*
- 2:30 – 3:00 pm Break
- 3:00 – 4:30 pm **SESSION 3 – Tools and Techniques for Conducting Open Source Research**
Review of tools and techniques for conducting open source research into agencies, individuals, and organizations.
Speakers: *TBD*
- 4:30 – 6:30 pm **SESSION 4 – Deposing / Interviewing a Witness**
Best practices for deposing or interviewing a witness. Mock interviews with reluctant / recalcitrant witnesses.
Speakers: *TBD*
- 6:30 – 8:00 pm Dinner - *What it is like to be on the receiving end of a Congressional investigation, and how to be effective at investigating agencies from someone who has been the subject of Hill attention.*
Speaker: *TBD*

DAY TWO

9:00 – 10:00 am

Breakfast

10:30 – 12:00 pm

SESSION 5 – Working with Outside Investigative Organizations

Understanding how to liaise with and utilize the expertise and records produced by outside investigators such as Inspectors General, Government Accountability Office investigators, and State Attorneys General.

Speakers: TBD

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Lunch and – SESSION 6 - Communicating Research Findings

How to take your research and investigation findings and work with communications staffers to present them so that the findings influence the debate. Lessons on best practices for media-effective presentation of research findings in hearings, or social media or with broadcast outlets.

Speakers: TBD

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Break

3:00 – 4:30 pm

SESSION 7 – Working with Outside Sources and Organizations

Using and working with outside sources of information and coordinating with outside groups to increase the effectiveness of Congressional investigations.

Speakers: TBD

4:30 – 6:30 pm

SESSION 8 – Oversight Shark Tank

Participants will be paired off into groups and expected to pitch an investigation, outline a research plan, and detail a prospective hearing. The presentation will be evaluated and critiqued by lecturers from the bootcamp.

Speakers: TBD

6:30 – 7:00 pm

Break

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Lessons Learned from Previous Investigations

How oversight is game changing, experiences and insights from previous practitioners who held the administration accountable.

Speaker: TBD

DAY THREE

8:30 am

Breakfast & Checkout

9:30 – 11:30 am

Travel from Cambridge, MD to 300 Independence Ave., SE