

# 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](mailto: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: Aaron Groce
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: July 12, 2024 Return: July 19, 2024  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Tel Aviv Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: J Street Education Fund
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: 7/13 - Meeting with an analyst to receive an overview of the war,  
7/14 - Meeting with an Israeli political analyst to receive an overview of the conflict, toured hostage,
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: 7/30/24

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: Sean Casten Date: 7/30/24

Signature of Supervising Member: 

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Aaron Groce
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: J Street Education Fund
3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel: Israel and The West Bank
4. a. Date of Departure: July 12, 2024 Date of Return: July 19, 2024  
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.

I am the Legislative Director for Congressman Sean Casten and serve as his Chief Legislative advisor on all issues, including foreign affairs. Participation in this trip will allow me to learn more about the history of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship, the Israel-Hamas war, and how American leadership can help bring about peace.

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: 6/7/2024

# 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: J Street Education Fund

2. Travel Destination(s): Tel Aviv

3. Date of Departure: July 12, 2024 Date of Return: July 19, 2024

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Aaron Groce

*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	\$3,709	\$2,069	\$1,315	See Attached
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	See Attached

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: 7/25/2024

Name: Jeremy Ben-Ami Title: President

Organization: J Street Education Fund

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

Address: P.O. Box 66073, Washington DC 20035

Telephone: (917) 312-1869 Email: cooperboyar@jstreet.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:

J Street Education Fund

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Please see attached

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

6. Date of Departure: July 12, 2024 Date of Return: July 19, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC

b. Destination(s): Tel Aviv, Israel

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:  
JSEF is a non-profit organization that works to promote a nuanced understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. JSEF alone has planned the trip, chosen the attendees, and shaped the itinerary.

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): \_\_\_\_\_  
\$206
    - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_  
To see issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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

Hotel Name: Renaissance Hotel City: Tel Aviv Cost Per Night: \$334  
 Reason(s) for Selecting: The hotel is a popular choice due to proximity, security, and comfort.

Hotel Name: Cassia Hotel City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: \$310  
 Reason(s) for Selecting: The hotel is a popular choice due to proximity, security, and comfort.

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_



**J Street Education Fund July 2024 StaffDel: Actual Per-Person Expenses**

\$404 Logistics Coordinator fee  
\$476 Tour bus for duration of trip  
\$163 Meeting room rentals  
\$230 Speaker honoraria  
\$55 Printing  
\$173 Security  
\$0 Covid testing

## *The Len Hill Education Program*

*Dedicated to providing American policy makers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace through diplomacy.*

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# **J Street Education Fund Congressional Staff Delegation to Israel and the Palestinian Territory July 13-18, 2024**

**MISSION GOALS:** *The aim of the trip is to explore the current state of affairs in the region and in particular in regard to the Israel-Hamas War, and to look at the role of US diplomatic leadership in the region with a focus on the day after the war. During this trip, the group will have the opportunity to hear from a wide array of politicians, security experts, and leaders from various professional fields such as business, government, and civil society, to provide them with an in-depth and nuanced understanding of challenges facing Israel today.*

**DISCLAIMER:** *One of the objectives of this trip is to provide participants with a window into the broad spectrum of opinions related to the conflict and its resolution in order to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities of the issues at hand. Therefore, we will meet with individuals and groups engaged in various activities or political agendas. In some cases, the policies of the J Street Education Fund diverge from the beliefs of speakers; however, we recognize the importance of trying to understand one another's viewpoint. **Please note that the items included in this itinerary are subject to change.***

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### ITINERARY

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**SATURDAY, JULY 13: WELCOME**

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**\*\*\*DRESS CODE: CASUAL**

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>5:40 PM</b>        | <b>Meet in the hotel lobby to depart for dinner</b>  |
| <b>6:00 - 8:00 PM</b> | <b>Welcome Dinner: Overview of the War and Current Moment</b><br><i>Participants will introduce themselves and journalist Neri Zilber will provide an overview of the current political moment in Israel in light of the Israel-Hamas war.</i> |

**Speaker:** Neri Zilber, Journalist and Analyst on Middle East Politics

**Location:** Beit Kandinof, HaZorfim St 14, Tel Aviv-Yafo

8:00 - 8:30 PM Drive to protest

**8:30 - 9:00 PM Rally to Bring Home the Hostages**

*The group will stop by the rally calling for a deal to return the hostages.*

**Location:** Hostages Square, Tel Aviv

**Hotel: Renaissance Hotel | 121 HaYarkon St, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972-3-521-5555**

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**SUNDAY, JULY 14: OVERVIEW OF THIS MOMENT IN ISRAEL**

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**\*\*\*DRESS CODE: ISRAELI BUSINESS CASUAL (SHORT SLEEVE POLO/BLOUSE/BUTTON-UP, NO JACKETS/BLAZERS REQUIRED)**

**8:30 - 11:00 AM Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 101 and Israeli Politics 101**

*This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography and political dynamics in the region, as well as an introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.*

**Speaker:** Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin, Political Analyst

**Location:** America Hall, SP floor, Renaissance hotel

11:00 - 11:15 AM Drive to Hostages Square

**11:15 - 12:30 PM Tour of Hostage Square**

*The Hostages Square, located outside of the Tel Aviv Museum, was established by the Hostages Families Forum and is used as a hub to protest, showcase exhibitions and express solidarity in support of the families.*

**Speaker:** Noam Peri, Daughter of deceased hostage Haim Peri

12:30 - 12:45 PM Walk to Lunch

**12:45 - 2:15 PM Briefing from Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS)**

*Hear from Commanders for Israel's Security on the war in Gaza, escalation on the Northern border and in the West Bank and creating a political horizon.*

**Speaker:** Dr. Nimrod Novik, Member of the Executive Committee, CIS

**Location:** Meatos, Weizmann St 2, Tel Aviv-Yafo

2:15 -2:45 PM Drive to the hotel

2:45 - 4:30 PM Executive time

**4:30 - 5:30 PM** **Meeting with Mohammad Darawshe**  
*Hear about Jewish-Arab political partnership and political aspirations of Palestinian citizens of Israel from a leading political analyst.*

**Location:** America Hall, SP floor, Renaissance Hotel

**5:30 - 6:15 PM** **Meeting with MK Shelly Tal Meron, Yesh Atid Party**  
*Hear from a representative of the largest centrist party in Israel and learn about their agenda and priorities post-Oct. 7.*

**Location:** America Hall, SP floor, Renaissance Hotel

**6:15 - 7:00 PM** **Meeting with Ido Dembin**  
*Hear about the Zionist left in Israel and the gaps that exist between progressives in Israel and the US.*

**Location:** America Hall, SP floor, Renaissance Hotel

7:00 - 7:30 PM Drive to dinner

**7:30 - 9:15 PM** **Dinner with Israeli Colleagues**  
*Meet with the Israeli leaders in the liberal camp to discuss the challenges and strategy of building power on the left, as well as creating progressive domestic and foreign policy.*

**Guests:**

Ibrahim Abu Ahmad, Geopolitical Analyst, 'Unapologetic' Podcast

Shanna Orlik, Co-founder and CEO, RISE - HITORERUT

Eran Nissan, CEO, Mehazkim

Naomi Sternberg, Gender & Conflict Resolution Project Manager, Geneva Initiative

Dawn Kerlik, Spokesperson of Hostages Families

Achiya Schatz, CEO, FakeReporter

Brit Yakobi, Co-Founder, The Faithful Left (Smol Emuni)

Nasreen Haj Yahya, Co-Founder and CEO, NAS - Arab-Jewish consultancy

**Location:** Kalamata restaurant, Kikar Kedumim 10, Tel Aviv-Yafo

**Hotel:** *Renaissance Hotel* | 121 HaYarkon St, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972-3-521-5555

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**MONDAY, JULY 15: HUMANITARIAN CRISES IN ISRAEL AND GAZA**

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**\*Logistical note:** *We will be checking out of the hotel today. Before we meet, please (1) bring your luggage to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to be loaded to the bus; (2) settle any additional items charged to your room at the front desk and (3) bring your passports with you.*

**\*\*\*DRESS CODE: CASUAL**

6:30 – 8:00 AM Buffet breakfast served at hotel

7:00 - 7:45 AM Drop off luggage in the lobby

**8:30 - 10:00 AM IDF + COGAT Briefing on the Israel-Hamas War**  
*The security briefing by the IDF and COGAT will acquaint us with the major security threats Israel faces today, IDF goals and priorities for the ongoing war in Gaza and other fronts, as well as for addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza*

**Speakers:**

Colonel (Res.) Reuven Ben-Shalom, IDF Intl. Cooperation Division  
Major (Res.) Aliza Landes, COGAT Information Center

**Location:** America hall, SP floor, Renaissance hotel

**10:15 - 11:45 AM Bus Briefing en route to Gaza Envelope: Geopolitics and History**  
*Overview of Israeli policy towards the Gaza strip pre-October 7, the situation on the ground and the humanitarian crisis, and Israeli policies and barriers regarding humanitarian assistance.*

**Speaker:** Rebecca Metzger, Director of International Relations, Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement

**11:45 - 12:30 PM Nova Site visit**  
*Visit the site where the Nova music festival took place. Since the massacre on Oct. 7, the site has become a memorial to those killed.*

12:45 - 1:30 PM Group Lunch

**1:30 - 3:00 PM Tour of the Kibbutz Kfar Aza**  
*We will be led on a tour by local residents in a Kibbutz Kfar Aza to hear firsthand about the October 7 attacks and how the community has fared since.*

**Speaker:** Chen Kotler, Resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza

3:00 - 5:00 PM Drive to Hotel

5:00 - 6:30 PM Check in and Executive Time

**\*\*\*DRESS CODE: ISRAELI BUSINESS CASUAL (SHORT SLEEVE POLO/BLOUSE/BUTTON-UP, NO JACKETS/BLAZERS REQUIRED)**

6:30 - 6:45 PM Walk to Dinner

**6:45 - 7:45 PM Palestinian Politics 101**

*The final portion of the 101 briefing to help us prepare for our Palestinian political meetings, we will learn about the post-Oslo system of governance in the West Bank and the current state of Palestinian politics.*

**Speaker:** Dr. Rula Hardal, Research Fellow, Shalom Hartman Institute

**Location:** Sea Dolphin, Shim'on Ben Shatakh St 9, Jerusalem

**7:45 - 9:15 PM**

**Dinner with DCM Stephanie Hallett and John Barbian**

*We will hear from the US Embassy in Israel regarding U.S. policy in the region and the current approach and priorities of the Biden Administration, specifically as it relates to policies and actions that advance an end of the war in Gaza, as well as the role of the US in shaping the post-war reality.*

**Speakers:**

Stephanie L. Hallett, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy  
John Barbian, Regional Refugee Coordinator, U.S. Office of Palestinian Affairs in Jerusalem

**Location:** Sea Dolphin, Shim'on Ben Shatakh St 9, Jerusalem

**Hotel: Cassia Hotel Jerusalem | King David St 32, Jerusalem | +972 2-569-5555**

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**TUESDAY, JULY 16: PALESTINIAN POLITICS**

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**\*\*\*DRESS CODE: BUSINESS**

8:15 - 9:00 AM Drive to Jalazone

9:00 - 10:30 AM **Briefing: Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza and the West Bank + Site Visit**

*A joint briefing on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza during the war, as well as an overview of the humanitarian infrastructure in Gaza – the work, capacity, and impact of international humanitarian organizations.*

**Speakers:**

Scott Anderson, Senior Deputy Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza  
Roland Friedrich, Deputy Director of UNRWA Affairs  
Bushra Khalidi, Humanitarian Policy Lead, Oxfam

**Location:** Jalazone Girls School, UNRWA Jalazone Camp

10:30 - 11:00 AM

Drive to Political meeting

**11:00 - 12:00 PM**

**Meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Muhamad Mustafa**

*We will discuss the current state of affairs in the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority's interests and priorities regarding the war in Gaza, the US-Palestinian relationship and creating a political horizon for Palestinians.*

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Drive to Lunch

12:30 - 2:15 PM

**Lunch Briefing: Palestinian Public Opinion**

*Briefing on Palestinian public opinion regarding October 7 and the Israel-Hamas war, Palestinian political leadership, and solutions to the conflict.*

**Speaker:** Dr. Khalil Shikaki, Director, Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research

**Location:** Millennium Hotel, Ramallah

2:15 - 2:45 PM

Drive to Binyamin Council

**2:45 - 3:45 PM**

**Meeting with Yisrael Medad**

*We will have an opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank. We will learn what drives them, why they have chosen to make their homes where they have, and what their hopes are for the future.*

**Speaker:** Yisrael Medad, Foreign Media Spokesperson, Yesha Council

**Location:** Sha'ar Binyamin Municipal Building

3:45 - 4:45 PM

Drive to Hotel

4:45 - 7:00 PM

Executive time

7:00 - 7:30 PM Drive to Piccolino Restaurant

**7:30 - 9:00 PM** **Dinner Conversation: The Day After - Creating a Political Horizon**  
*Discussion on establishing a political framework post-war and how to chart a course for a sustainable and constructive future in Israel and Palestine.*

**Speakers:**

Samer Sinjilawi, Head of Diplomatic, Israeli and International Relations (Fatah Shadow Leadership)

Dr. Shira Efron, Director of Research, Israel Policy Forum

**Location:** Piccolino, Yo'el Moshe Salomon St 12, Jerusalem

**Hotel:** **Cassia Hotel Jerusalem** | King David St 32, Jerusalem | +972 2-569-5555

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**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17: WEST BANK IN THE SHADOW OF THE WAR**

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**\*\*\*DRESS CODE: CASUAL, MODEST DRESS (SHOULDERS AND KNEES COVERED)**

**8:00 - 9:00 AM** **Breakfast Briefing: Introduction to Settlements**  
*In the briefing, we will lay the necessary groundwork to understand the current state and political agenda of the Israeli settlement enterprise. We will learn about its history and evolution, as well as the long-term vision and strategy of the Israeli settlement movement.*

**Speaker:** Yehuda Shaul, Co-Director and Founder, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

**Location:** Cinlee room, Cassia hotel

**9:00 - 11:00 AM** **Settlement Tour en route to Hebron**  
*In this tour, we will learn about the geopolitical significance of the settlements, their role in Israeli security, and potential territorial solutions.*

**Guide:** Yehuda Shaul, Co-Director and Founder, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

**11:00 - 1:30 PM** **Walking tour of Hebron**  
*On this walking tour of Hebron, we will visit the H2 area and see the Jewish settlement of Hebron.*

**Guide:** Nadav Weiman, Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

1:30 - 2:15 PM Lunch on the bus - drive to South Hebron Hills

**2:30 - 3:30 PM**      **Tour of Khirbat Zenuta and Umm Al Kheir**  
*See the remnants of a displaced Palestinian community in Area C and hear from a local resident about the daily reality of settler violence.*

**Speaker:** Nasser Nawaja, Palestinian human rights activist and Susya resident

3:30 - 5:00 PM      Drive to Jerusalem

5:00 - 6:30 PM      Executive time

**6:30 - 7:30 PM**      **Meeting with LTG Michael R. Fenzel**  
*Briefing with the United States Security Coordinator of the Israel-Palestinian Authority on the current volatile situation in the West Bank, settler violence, and a vision for security in Gaza.*

7:30 - 8:00 PM      Drive to dinner

**8:00 - 9:30 PM**      **Dinner with Israeli and Palestinian Peace Leaders**  
*Hear from Israeli and Palestinian leaders about their work, how it has been impacted by the war and what their vision for the future is.*

**Speakers:**

Yoni Mizrahi, co-director, Peace Now Settlements Watch  
Nivine Sandouka, Regional Chief of Staff, ALLMEP  
Rana Hadieh, International law and Human rights student  
Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed, Executive Director, Arava Institute for Environmental Studies  
Ittay Flescher, Education Director, Kids4Peace Jerusalem

**Location:** Eucalyptus, Felt St 14, Jerusalem

**Hotel:**      **Cassia Hotel Jerusalem** | King David St 32, Jerusalem | +972 2-569-5555

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**THURSDAY, JULY 18: JERUSALEM - TODAY'S REALITY + DAY AFTER**

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**\*\*\*DRESS CODE: MODEST DRESS FOR OLD CITY TOUR (LEGS COVERED TO ANKLES, SHOULDERS AND COLLARBONES COVERED)**

6:30 – 7:40 AM      Buffet breakfast served at hotel

**7:40 AM**              **Meet in the lobby to depart**

7:45 - 8:00 AM      Drive to Jaffa Gate

**8:00 - 10:00 AM**      **Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem**

*We will visit the major Jewish, Muslim, and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, including the Al Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount, and learn about the city's religious, historic, and political significance.*

**Guide:** Hava Schwartz

**10:00 - 11:30 AM**

**East Jerusalem Geopolitical Tour**

*On this tour, we will learn how the Israel-Hamas War has impacted trends in Jerusalem, the role of Jerusalem in creating a political horizon and ways religious radicalization can be curbed to transform Jerusalem into a beacon of stability.*

**Guide:** Daniel Seidemann, Founder and Director, Terrestrial Jerusalem

11:30 - 12:00 PM

Drive to Lunch

**12:00 - 1:30 PM**

**Lunch with East Jerusalem Leaders**

*We will be joined by Palestinian residents who are active in public or private spheres in East Jerusalem. We will hear about the challenges and opportunities that Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem face.*

**Speakers:**

Rula Salameh, Education and Outreach Director, Just Vision  
Ahmad Muna, Educational Bookshop

**Location:** Educational Bookshop, Salah Ad-din St 19, Jerusalem

1:30 - 2:00 PM

Drive to UN Headquarters in Jerusalem

**2:00 - 3:30 PM**

**Meeting with UNSCO + EU Representatives**

*Representatives of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and the European Union will brief the group on the challenges and strategic approaches post-war role of international coordination, humanitarian efforts, and the path towards sustainable recovery in Gaza.*

**Speakers:**

Heather Sonner, Head of the Political Unit, UNSCO  
Frederikke Bruhn Jacobsen, Political Affairs Officer, The Office of the European Union Representative (West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA)

**Location:** The Office of the European Union Representative (West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA)

3:30 - 3:45 PM

Drive to Hotel

3:45 - 5:45 PM

Executive Time + Check out

5:45 - 6:30 PM Load luggage on the bus and drive to dinner

**6:30 - 7:30 PM Meeting with Lior Haiat, Deputy Director General of the Israeli MFA and the Head of the North America Division**  
*We will discuss the Israeli government's policy agenda and the US-Israel relationship.*

**Location:** Jerusalem House of Quality, Hebron Rd 12, Jerusalem

**7:30 - 9:30 PM Farewell Dinner**  
*Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from their experiences over the past week and discuss how this will impact their work in the United States.*

**Location:** Jerusalem House of Quality, Hebron Rd 12, Jerusalem

**In addition to the above Traveler Form, please note the following attachments:**

- I. PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM
- II. PARTICIPANT LIST
- III. ADDITIONAL EXPENSES
- IV. ORIGINAL INVITATION
- V. DELEGATION ITINERARY

## **ATTACHMENT II: PARTICIPANT LIST**

As Members of Congress, the following trip participants are asked to vote on legislation related to the issues that will be addressed on this trip surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, US foreign aid, and other policies related to Middle East issues.

Shahid Ahmed, office of Rep. McClellan  
James Bernhard, office of Rep. Carter  
Emma Consoli, office of Rep. Houlahan  
Mallory De Lauro, office of Rep. Swalwell  
Sophia Dyaico, office of Rep. Scott  
Abe Friedman, office of Rep. DelBene  
Conor Friend, office of Rep. Pingree  
Aaron Groce, office of Rep. Casten  
Alexandra Heller, office of Rep. Ruiz  
Christina Mahoney, office of Rep. Cleaver  
Anna McDonald, office of Rep. Kamlager-Dove  
Shira Siegel, office of Rep. Crow  
Nikhil Srinivasan, office of Rep. DeLauro  
Jess Vaughn, office of Rep. Magaziner

### **ATTACHMENT III. ADDITIONAL PER-PERSON EXPENSES**

\$367 Logistics Coordinator fee  
\$400 Tour bus for duration of trip  
\$175 Meeting room rentals  
\$200 Speaker honoraria  
\$36 Printing  
\$240 Security  
\$5 COVID testing



Aaron Groce  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Aaron,

We are pleased to invite you to join a delegation of congressional staff for an educational trip to Israel and the West Bank sponsored by the J Street Education Fund (JSEF). The trip, which will be on the ground for six days, will depart DC in the evening of Friday, July 12th, and return to the US in the morning on Friday, July 19th.

Through this trip, JSEF hopes to provide an opportunity for staff to see the reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict post-October 7th, focusing on the current crisis and plans for the “day after” the war. This delegation will enable staff to have a one-of-a-kind experience that gives a unique perspective on what is at stake in the region and how American leadership can help bring about peace.

All trip related expenses will be paid for by JSEF in compliance with the House Committee on Ethics rules. At least 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting the “Primary Trip Sponsor Form,” filled out by JSEF, as well as the “Traveler Form.” If you have any questions about the rules, please contact the House Committee on Ethics. Prior to the trip, JSEF will conduct a briefing to provide background information and logistics for staff in preparation for their visit.

I hope that you will be able to join us on this important, thought-provoking, and educational trip. If you have any questions, please contact Cooper Boyar at (917) 312-1869, or at [cooperboyar@jstreet.org](mailto:cooperboyar@jstreet.org), at any time to discuss the details of the sponsored trip and our organization.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Ben-Ami  
President  
J Street Education Fund

*The J Street Education Fund (JSEF) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that does not hire or retain registered lobbyists. JSEF is a member of the J Street family of pro-Israel, pro-peace organizations.*



## ***The Len Hill Education Program***

*Dedicated to providing American policy makers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace through diplomacy.*

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**July 12-19, 2024**

ITINERARY
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**Friday, July 12**

Early Evening                      Flights depart US

**Saturday, July 13**

Mid-Afternoon:                      Flights arrive in Tel Aviv. Drive to the hotel and check in

6:00 - 8:00 PM                      Overview of the War and Current Moment  
*Participants will introduce themselves and Journalist Neri Zilber will provide an overview of the current political moment in Israel in light of the Israel-Hamas war.*

Speaker: Neri Zilber, journalist and analyst on Middle East politics  
Location: TBC

8:00 - 8:30 PM                      Drive to Hostages Square

8:30 - 9:00 PM                      Rally to Bring Home the Hostages  
*Participants will stop by Hostages Square in Tel Aviv to observe the weekly post-Shabbat rally calling for a deal to return the hostages.*

*Hotel: Renaissance Hotel | 121 HaYarkon St, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972-3-521-5555*

**Sunday, July 14**

8:30 - 11:00 AM                      Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 101 and Israeli Politics 101  
*This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography and political dynamics in the region, as well as an*

*introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.*

Speaker: Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin, Political Analyst

Location: Renaissance Hotel

- 11:00 - 11:15 AM Short break
- 11:15 - 11:30 AM Drive to Hostages Square
- 11:30 - 12:30 PM Tour of Hostages Square  
*The Hostages Square, located outside of the Tel Aviv Museum, was established by the Hostages Families Forum and is used as a hub to protest, showcase exhibitions, and express solidarity in support of the families.*
- Speaker: TBC
- 12:30 - 12:45 PM Walk to lunch
- 12:45 - 1:15 PM Quick Group Lunch - no programming
- Location: Miznon, 23 Shlomo Ibn Gabirol, Tel Aviv
- 1:15 - 1:45 PM Drive to Camp Aviv Military Facility
- 1:45 - 3:00 PM IDF Briefing on the Israel-Hamas War  
*The security briefing by the IDF will acquaint us with the major security threats Israel faces today, as well as the IDF goals and priorities for the ongoing war in Gaza and other fronts.*
- Speaker: Lt. Col. (R) Peter Lerner
- Location: Camp Aviv Military Facility, Chaim Levanon St 8, Tel Aviv
- 3:30 - 3:15 PM Drive to hotel
- 3:15 - 4:45 PM Executive time
- 4:45 - 7:00 PM Meetings with Israeli Political Officials  
*We will meet with Members of the Israeli Knesset to discuss the current state of affairs in Israel, their vision regarding the future of the Israel-Hamas war, and the US-Israel relationship.*
- Location: Renaissance Hotel
- 7:00 - 7:30 PM Walk/Drive to dinner

7:39 - 9:15 PM Dinner with Israeli Changemakers  
*Meet with the Israeli changemakers in the liberal camp, including Staffers for current Members of Knesset, and discuss the challenges and strategy of building power on the left, as well as creating progressive domestic and foreign policy.*

Location: TBC

Hotel: Renaissance Hotel | 121 HaYarkon St, Tel Aviv-Yafo | +972-3-521-5555

### **Monday, July 15**

8:00 - 9:15 AM Briefing with Commanders for Israel's Security  
*We will hear from a former General on the war in Gaza, escalation on the Northern border and in the West Bank, and creating a political horizon for a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.*

Speaker: TBC

Location: Renaissance Hotel

9:15 - 11:15 AM Drive to the Gaza Envelope - Briefing on Israeli policy toward Gaza

Speaker: Celine Touboul, Co-Executive Director, Economic Cooperation Foundation (ECF).

11:15 - 1:00 PM Tour of the Gaza Envelope: Witnessing the Destruction of Israeli Border Communities  
*We will be led on a tour by a resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza to hear firsthand about the October 7 attacks and how the community has fared since.*

Guide: Chen Kotler, Resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza

Location: Kibbutz Kfar Aza

1:00 - 1:30 PM Quick Group Lunch - no programming

1:30 - 1:45 PM Drive to Nova Site

1:45 - 2:15 PM Nova Site visit  
*Visit the site where the Nova music festival took place. Since the massacre on Oct. 7, the site has become a memorial to those killed.*

2:15 - 4:15 PM Drive to hotel

4:15 - 5:45 PM Check in + free time

5:45- 6:00 PM Walk/drive to dinner

6:00 - 7:15 PM Palestinian Politics 101

*In the final portion of our 101 briefings we will learn about the post-Oslo system of governance in the West Bank and the current state of Palestinian politics.*

Speaker: Dr. Rula Hardal, Co-Executive Director, A Land for All

7:15 - 7:30 PM

Short break

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Dinner discussion: The Day After - Creating a Political Horizon

*Speakers will discuss steps towards establishing a political framework post-war, while delving into strategic insights and visionary perspectives shared by experts and leaders, aiming to chart a course for a sustainable and constructive future in Israel and Palestine.*

Speakers: TBC

*Hotel: Cassia Hotel | King David St 32, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5555*

## **Tuesday, July 16**

8:00 - 9:15 AM

Drive to Sha'ar Binyamin

9:15 - 10:15 AM

Meeting with Binyamin Council

*We will have an opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank. We will learn what drives them, why they have chosen to make their homes where they have, and what their hopes are for the future.*

Speaker: Eliana Passentin, Director of International Relations, Binyamin Council  
Location: Sha'ar Benyamin Industrial Zone (TBC)

10:15 - 11:00 PM

Drive to Ramallah

11:00 - 12:15 PM

Palestinian Authority Political Meeting

*We will discuss the current state of affairs in the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority's interests and priorities regarding the war in Gaza, the US-Palestinian relationship, and creating a political horizon for Palestinians.*

12:15 - 12:45 PM

Drive to lunch

12:45 - 2:15 PM

Lunch Briefing: Palestinian Public Opinion

*We will learn about the state of Palestinian public opinion regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, internal Palestinian politics, and the aftermath of October 7 on public opinion.*

Speaker: Dr. Khalil Shikaki  
Location: Millennium Hotel

2:15 - 2:45 PM

Drive to Jalazone Camp

2:45 - 4:15

Briefing: Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

*A briefing on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza during the war, and the current state of UNRWA.*

Location: Jalazone Camp

4:15 - 5:15 PM

Drive to Hotel

5:15 - 6:45 PM

Executive time

6:45 - 7:00 PM

Walk/drive to dinner

7:00 - 8:15 PM

Dinner with US Embassy

*We will hear from the US Embassy in Israel regarding U.S. policy in the region and the current approach and priorities of the Biden Administration, specifically as it relates to policies and actions that advance an end of the war in Gaza, as well as the role of the US in shaping the post-war reality.*

Speaker: TBC

Location: Cassia Hotel

8:15 - 9:00 PM

Group processing time - no programming

*Time for group discussion and processing the trip thus far.*

*Hotel: Cassia Hotel | King David St 32, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5555*

### **Wednesday, July 17**

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Introduction to Settlements

*In the briefing, we will lay the necessary groundwork to understand the current state and political agenda of the Israeli settlement enterprise. We will learn about its history and evolution, as well as the long-term vision and strategy of the Israeli settlement movement.*

Speaker: Yehuda Shaul, Co-Director and Founder, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

Location: Cassia hotel

9:00 - 11:00 AM

Settlement Tour en route to Hebron

*Understanding the geopolitical significance of the settlements and their role in Israeli security and potential territorial solutions.*

Guide: Yehuda Shaul, Co-Director and Founder, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

11:00 - 1:30 AM

Walking tour of Hebron

*On this walking tour of Hebron, we will visit the H2 area and see the Jewish settlement of Hebron.*

Guide: Nadav Weimann, Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

- 1:30 - 2:30 PM Lunch on the bus - drive to South Hebron Hills
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM Tour of Khirbat Zenuta  
*See the remnants of a displaced Palestinian community in Area C and hear from a local resident about the daily reality of settler violence.*
- Speaker: Nasser Nawaja, Palestinian human rights activist and Susya resident
- 3:30 - 5:00 PM Drive to hotel
- 5:00 - 7:00 PM Executive time
- 7:00 - 7:30 PM Walk/drive to dinner
- 7:30 - 9:15 PM Dinner with Israeli and Palestinian Peace Activists  
*Hear from Israeli and Palestinian activists about their work, how it has been impacted by the war, and what their vision for the future is.*

Location: TBC

*Hotel: Cassia Hotel | King David St 32, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5555*

### **Thursday, July 18**

- 6:30 – 7:40 AM Buffet breakfast served at hotel
- 7:40 AM Meet in the lobby to depart
- 7:45 - 8:00 AM Drive to Jaffa Gate
- 8:00 - 11:30 AM Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem  
*We will visit the major Jewish, Muslim, and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, including the Al Aqsa Mosque / Temple Mount, and learn about the city's religious, historic, and political significance.*
- Guide: Hava Schwartz
- 11:30 - 11:45 PM Drive to lunch
- 11:45 - 1:15 PM Lunch with East Jerusalem Leaders  
*We will be joined by several Palestinian residents of Jerusalem who are active in public or private spheres in East Jerusalem. We will hear about the challenges and opportunities that Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem face.*
- Location: TBC
- 1:15 - 2:30 PM The day after in Jerusalem - Geopolitical Tour  
*The final status of Jerusalem is considered to be one of the key issues to be negotiated in the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following the 1967*

*war, Israel annexed all of East Jerusalem, land which is beyond the Green Line and is inhabited predominantly by Palestinians. On this tour, we will learn how October 7 accelerated trends in the city, and explore ways to curb religious radicalization and transform Jerusalem into a beacon of stability.*

Guide: Daniel Seidemann, Founder, Terrestrial Jerusalem

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 2:30 - 3:00 PM  | Drive to UN Headquarters in Jerusalem + Security   |
| 3:00 - 4:30 PM  | Meeting with UNSCO + EU representatives<br><i>Representatives of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and the European Union will brief the group on the challenges and strategic approaches post-war role of international coordination, humanitarian efforts, and the path towards sustainable recovery in Gaza.</i>     |
|                 | Speakers: TBC<br>Location: Armon haNatsiv U.N Observer Headquarters  |
| 4:30 - 4:45 PM  | Drive to hotel   |
| 4:45 - 6:15 PM  | Executive time   |
| 6:15 - 8:15 PM  | Farewell Dinner<br><i>Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from their experiences over the past week and discuss how this will impact their work in the United States. We will review potential opportunities for action that support a diplomatic and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.</i> |
|                 | Location: Cassia Hotel   |
| 9:00 - 10:00 PM | Drive to Ben-Gurion Airport  |
| Late Evening    | Flights depart Ben-Gurion Airport  |

**Friday, July 19**

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Early Morning | Flights arrive in US |
|---------------|----------------------|

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*  
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania  
*Ranking Member*

David P. Joyce, Ohio  
John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York  
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas  
Mark DeSaulnier, California  
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina  
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Keelie Broom  
*Counsel to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

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

July 8, 2024

Mr. Aaron Groce  
Office of the Honorable Sean Casten  
2440 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Groce:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for July 12 to 19, 2024, sponsored by J Street Education Fund.

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 \$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 employees 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.

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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. 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



Susan Wild  
Ranking Member

MG/SW:tn