

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: Alex Vargo
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ OR None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: Feb 16, 2025 Return: Feb 24, 2025
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Israel Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Israel Education Foundation
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Attended meetings across Israel with opinion leaders and lawmakers about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

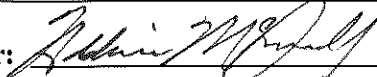
7. Attached to this form are *each* of the following, signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor *prior* to the trip, *including all* attachments and 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: 3.10.25

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: Rep. Addison McDowell Date: 3.10.25

Signature of Supervising Member: 

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: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel

3. Date of Departure: February 16, 2025 Date of Return: February 24, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Alexander Vargo

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	\$10,755.02	\$2,445.11	\$1,366.47	\$4,406.74
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.

Signed by:  Date: 3/6/2025 | 15:11 EST

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

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

Address: 251 H Street, NW Washington D.C., 20001

Telephone: (202) 246-0519 Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.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

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.

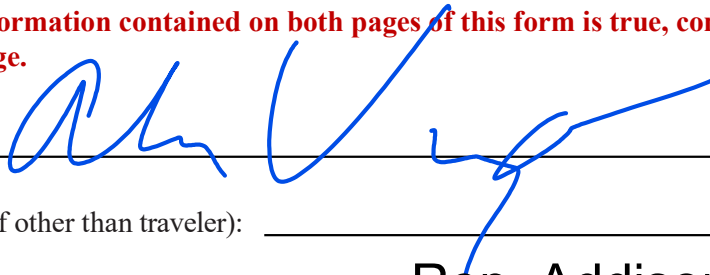
Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Alex Vargo

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): Rep. Addison McDowell (NC-06)

Office Address: 1032 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: 202-225-3065

Email Address of Contact Person: alex.vargo@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: Alex Vargo
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: February 16, 2025 Date of Return: February 24, 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: _____
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
 - (3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
As the Congressman's chief of staff, I act as a chief advisor - including on legislative matters. The House of Representatives routinely debates and votes on legislation related to Israel, and this educational seminar will help equip me (and others) with on-the-ground knowledge of how U.S. policy impacts Israel and the broader region.
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: 1.17.25

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:
American Israel Education Foundation, Inc.
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 find attached _____
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: February 16, 2025 Date of Return: February 24, 2025
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C.
b. Destination(s): Israel
c. City of return: Washington, D.C.
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:
 AIEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a charitable and educational mission which includes, among other things, educating policy makers and opinion leaders about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this trip. _____
-

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
 - b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: charter bus in Israel)
 - 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): _____
 \$179
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
 The trip is in Israel to educate senior congressional staff about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

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

Hotel Name: <u>Orient</u>	City: <u>Jerusalem</u>	Cost Per Night: <u>\$289</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>location and affordability</u>		
Hotel Name: <u>Sheraton</u>	City: <u>Tel Aviv</u>	Cost Per Night: <u>\$364</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>location and affordability</u>		
Hotel Name: <u>Magdala</u>	City: <u>Tiberias</u>	Cost Per Night: <u>\$336</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>location and affordability</u>		

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	\$10,733.33	\$2,370.00	\$1,250.00
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a	n/a

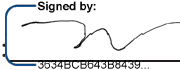
	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of “Other” Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$3,273.33	breakdown attached
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a

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: 1/12/2025 | 16:41 EST
Signed by: 35349CB643B8439...
 Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel
 Organization: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)
 Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001
 Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.org Telephone: (202) 246-0519

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

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
February 16-24, 2025**

Addendum

4. Name of Travelers

1. Kelsey Greenwald, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Tim Burchett (R-TN)
2. Jackson Gross, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable John James (R-MI)
3. Aaron Harawa, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Glenn Ivey (D-MD)
4. Reginald Harris, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Greg Landsman (D-OH)
5. Dan Kaufman, Communications Director, Office of the Honorable Lois Frankel (D-FL)
6. Will McPherson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Tom Cole (R-OK)
7. Brendon Mills, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Eugene Vindman (D-VA)
8. Patrick Mocete, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Young Kim (R-CA)
9. Jeff Morehouse, Leadership Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Richard Hudson (R-NC)
10. Dan Scharfenberger, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Tom Kean, Jr. (R-NJ)
11. Katherine Sears, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Jen Kiggans (R-VA)
12. Alex Vargo, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Addison McDowell (R-NC)
13. Chris Walsh, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Pat Ryan (D-NY)

5. Breakdown of other expenses

BREAKDOWN OF OTHER COSTS:	PER PARTICIPANT
SECURITY	\$1,552.63
SPEAKER HONORARIUM	\$1,050.16
ROOM RENTAL	\$461.22
HOTEL FOR CONTRACT STAFF & SPEAKERS	\$425.92
MEALS FOR CONTRACT STAFF & SPEAKERS	\$351.20
TOUR GUIDE	\$330.07
AIRPORT ASSISTANCE	\$155.06
PHOTOGRAPHY	\$38.86
MISC	\$20.09
TRANSPORTATION FOR CONTRACT STAFF & SPEAKERS	\$10.75
TIPS	\$8.01
ENTRANCE FEES	\$2.79
TOTAL	\$ 4,406.74

**American Israel Education Foundation
Educational Seminar in Israel
Senior Congressional Staff
Feb 16 – Feb 24, 2025**

Sunday, February 16, 2025

- 1:00 PM El Al #18 departs Miami for Greenwald
- 2:30 PM Amtrak #156 departs Union Station for Gross, Kaufman, McPherson, Morehouse, Scharfenberger, Sears, Walsh, Mills, Mocete, Harawa, Vargo, Harris
- 5:40 PM Amtrak #156 arrives Newark for Gross, Kaufman, McPherson, Morehouse, Scharfenberger, Sears, Walsh, Mills, Mocete, Harawa, Vargo, Harris
- 9:00 PM El Al #26 departs Newark for Gross, Kaufman, McPherson, Morehouse, Scharfenberger, Sears, Walsh, Mills, Harawa, Mocete, Vargo, Harris

Monday, February 17, 2025

- 7:35 AM El Al #18 arrives Tel Aviv for Greenwald
- 2:10 PM El Al #26 arrives Tel Aviv for Gross, Kaufman, McPherson, Morehouse, Scharfenberger, Sears, Walsh, Mills, Harawa, Mocete, Vargo, Harris

Monday, Feb 17, 2025

- 2:10 PM Transfer to Jerusalem
Check-in to the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem
- 6:00-7:15 PM **Welcome and Orientation Dinner**
-at Patterson Hall, Orient Hotel
- 7:30-8:30 PM **Pulse of the Nation**
Dessert with Efrat Shapira Rosenberg
Media Figure, Content Director, Beit Avi Chai Foundation
-at the Wingate Hall, Orient Hotel
- 8:45 PM Depart

9:00-10:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I: The City of David**
Visit to archeological excavation site
-at the City of David

10:15 PM Depart for hotel

10:30 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, Feb 18, 2025

8:00 AM Breakfast on own
- at the hotel dining hall

9:00-10:00 AM **The Significance of the US-Israel Relationship**
the Honorable Stephanie Hallett
Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Israel
-at the Wingate Hall, Orient Hotel

10:15 AM Depart

10:45-12:30 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part II: The Holy Basin**
Guided visit through the Old City of Jerusalem

- Robinson's Arch
- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

12:45-1:30 PM Lunch
-at Abu Kamel

1:45 PM Depart for the hotel

2:00-2:45 PM Change into business clothes

3:00-4:00 PM **Israeli Politics 101**
With Yoni Leviatan
-at Wingate Hall, Orient Hotel

4:15 PM Depart for the Knesset

5:15-5:45 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action, Part I: The Opposition**
Meeting with The Honorable Gilad Kariv
Member of Knesset, Labor party
-at the Knesset

- 5:45-6:30 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action, Part II: The Coalition**
Meeting with the Honorable Simcha Rothman
Member of the Knesset, Religious Zionism party
-at the Knesset
- 6:30-6:50 PM **Visit to Plenary Hall**
- 7:00 PM Depart for Dinner
- 7:30-9:30 PM **Politics and Policy in Israel**
- Maayan Samun, Spokesman, The Honorable Yuli Edelstein,
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee
 - Ariel Segal, Senior Political Advisor, The Honorable Yair Lapid,
Opposition Leader
 - Sharon Weinstein, Head of Bureau, The Honorable Sharren Haskel,
Deputy Minister
- at Andalusia
- 9:45 PM Depart for hotel
- 10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, Feb 19, 2025

- 7:30 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel dining hall
- 8:30 AM Depart for Yad Vashem
- 9:00-11:00 AM **The Israeli Psyche, Part I: The Significance of the Holocaust**
Guided visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum
- 11:15 AM Depart for Mount Herzl
- 11:30-12:30 PM **The Israeli Psyche, Part II: The Price of War**
Learn about the role of fallen soldiers in Israeli society
-at Mount Herzl
- 12:30 PM Depart
- 12:45-1:30 PM Lunch
-at the Vert Hotel

1:45-3:15 PM	Israel's Quest for Peace Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker Former Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs -at the Presidential Suite, Vert Hotel
3:30 PM	Depart for Tel Aviv
4:00 – 5:00 PM	En route briefing: The History of Tel Aviv
5:00 PM	Check-in to the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
6:30-7:30 PM	Navigating the Middle East: Regional Strategic Overview Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office -at Studio 5, the Sheraton Hotel
7:45 PM	Depart for dinner
8:00-10:00 PM	Dinner and Discussion -at Ha'Achim
10:15 PM	Return to hotel
10:30 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, Feb 20, 2025

7:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at the hotel dining hall
8:00-8:30 AM	October 7: How It Happened with Yoni Leviatan, Educational Seminar Leader -at Studio 5, the Sheraton Hotel
8:45 AM	Depart for the Gaza Envelope
10:30-12:00 PM	October 7, Part I: The Kibbutzim Visit and briefing at Kibbutz Nir Oz with Nir Metzger, resident -at Kibbutz Nir Oz
12:15 PM	Depart

12:45-1:30 PM	Lunch -at Falafel Baribua
1:30 PM	Depart
1:45-2:45 PM	October 7, Part II: The Nova Party Visit the site of the music festival massacre -at Reim Forest
2:45 PM	Depart
3:00-3:30 PM	U.S. -Israel Missile Defense Cooperation Visit the Iron Dome Battery -at Ibim
3:45 PM	Depart for Tel Aviv
5:30-7:00 PM	Break
7:15 PM	Depart for dinner
7:30-9:30 PM	Citizen-Soldiers: The IDF's Impact on Israeli Society Dinner with IDF Reservists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lt. Col. (Res.) Assaf Hershkovits ▪ First Sergeant (Res.) Yoav Tzivoni ▪ Captain (Res.) Noga Ventura -at Darya
9:45 PM	Depart for hotel
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv
 <u>Friday, Feb 21, 2025</u>	
8:00 AM	Breakfast on own -at the hotel dining hall
8:30 -9:30 AM	Understanding Hamas' Strategy Briefing with Michael Milshtein Senior Fellow, International Institute for Counter Terrorism, Reichman University -at Studio 5, Sheraton Hotel

9:45 -10:45 AM	International Law and IDF Ethics Briefing with Major (Res.) Ben Wahlhaus Former Head, International Negotiations and Agreements International Law Department, Israel Defense Forces -at Studio 5, Sheraton Hotel
11:00 AM	Depart
11:30-12:30 PM	Coexistence in the Heart of Israel Guided Survey of Jaffa
12:30 PM	Depart
12:45-1:45 PM	Lunch -at Cassis
2:00 PM	Depart for hotel
2:15-3:15 PM	A Palestinian Voice Post-October 7 Meeting with Ibrahim Dalalsha Executive Director, Horizon Center for Political Studies and Media Outreach -at Studio 5, Sheraton Hotel
3:30-4:30 PM	The West Bank: A Situational Assessment Briefing with Noa Shusterman Senior Researcher, Director of the Palestinians and the Region Research Program -at Studio 5, Sheraton Hotel
6:45 PM	Depart for Shabbat Dinner
7:00-9:00 PM	Reflections on the Sabbath Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner with Hana and Aviad Friedman -at their home
9:15 PM	Depart for hotel
9:30 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, Feb 22, 2025

7:30 AM	Breakfast on own
8:00 AM	Depart for the North
10:30 – 11:30 AM	En route briefing: The Jezreel Valley and Upper Galilee
10:00-12:00 PM	Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee Guided Survey of Christian Holy Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mount of Beatitudes▪ Capernaum
12:15 PM	Depart
12:45-1:30 PM	Lunch -at Ketze Hanachal
1:45 PM	Depart
2:15-3:15 PM	Israel's Northern Front, Part I: Syria Strategic Briefing with Maj. (Res.) Ilan Schulman -at Merom Golan
3:30 PM	Depart
3:45-4:15 PM	Strategic Survey of the Syrian Border Overlook with Maj. (Res.) Ilan Schulman -at the U.N. crossing
4:30 PM	Depart
5:30 PM	Check-in to the Magdala Hotel, Migdal
6:30-8:00 PM	Shared Society in Times of Crisis Dinner with Ibrahim Abu Ahmed Arab Israeli Activist and Writer -at Magdalena
8:00 PM	Depart for dinner
8:15-10:00 PM	Dinner and Reflections from the Week -at Magdalena

9:45 PM Return to hotel
10:00 PM Overnight at the Magdala Hotel, Migdal

Sunday, Feb 23, 2025

7:30 AM Breakfast on own
8:00 AM Depart
9:00-10:30 AM **Israel's Northern Front, Part II: Lebanon and Hezbollah**
Strategic briefing with Lt. Col. (Res.) Eyal Dror
-at Kibbutz Sasa
10:30-11:00 AM **The Civilian Impact of Hezbollah's War on Israel**
-Kibbutz Sasa with residents
11:15 AM Depart
1:00-1:45 PM Lunch
-at Yulek Café
2:00-2:30 PM **Israel's Narrow Waistline**
Strategic briefing
-at the Alfei Menashe overlook
2:30-3:00 PM **Life as a Hostage Family**
Meeting with Sarit Rosenthal
Aunt of 20-year-old released hostage, Agam Berger
-at the Alfei Menashe Synagogue
3:00 PM Depart for hotel
4:00-5:00 PM **The Day After**
Conversation with Zvika Klein
Editor-in-Chief, Jerusalem Post
-at Studio 5, the Sheraton Hotel
5:15-6:45 PM Prepare for departure
7:00-9:00 PM **Closing Dinner and Reflections**
-at Studio 5, the Sheraton Hotel
9:15 PM Depart for airport

Monday, February 24, 2025

12:05 AM	El Al #25 departs Tel Aviv for Gross, McPherson, Morehouse, Scharfenberger
12:45 AM	El Al #1 departs Tel Aviv for Walsh
1:00 AM	El Al #21 departs Tel Aviv for Kaufman
6:00 AM	El Al #337 departs Tel Aviv for Harris, Greenwald
1:00 PM	El Al #7 departs Tel Aviv for Vargo, Mills, Mocete, Sears, Harawa
5:05 AM EST	El Al #25 arrives Newark for Gross, McPherson, Morehouse, Scharfenberger
5:45 AM EST	El Al #1 arrives JFK for Walsh
7:50 AM EST	El Al #21 arrives Fort Lauderdale for Kaufman
8:22 AM EST	United #3414 departs Newark for Gross, McPherson, Morehouse, Scharfenberger
8:55 AM EST	Delta #5750 departs JFK for Walsh
9:54 AM EST	United #3414 arrives DCA for Gross, McPherson, Morehouse, Scharfenberger
9:59 AM EST	Delta #4868 departs JFK for
10:15 AM CET	El Al #337 arrives Amsterdam for Harris, Greenwald
10:16 AM EST	Delta #5750 arrives DCA for Walsh
11:14 AM EST	American Airlines #2939 departs Fort Lauderdale for Kaufman
1:00 PM CET	KLM Royal Dutch Airlines #651 departs Amsterdam for Harris, Greenwald
1:45 PM EST	American Airlines #2939 arrives DCA for Kaufman
3:45 PM EST	KLM Royal Dutch Airlines #651 arrives Dulles for Harris, Greenwald
6:00 PM EST	El Al #7 arrives JFK for Vargo, Mills, Mocete, Sears, Harawa
8:31 PM EST	Delta #5795 departs JFK for Vargo, Mills, Mocete, Sears, Harawa

10:00 PM EST

Delta #5795 arrives DCA for Vargo, Mills, Mocete, Sears, Harawa



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2025

Mr. Alexander Vargo
Office of the Honorable Addison P. McDowell
1032 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Vargo:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for February 16 to 24, 2025, sponsored by American Israel Education 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 \$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.

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