

# 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: Alexander Sells
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: 8/5/2025 Return: 8/9/2025  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Washington - Dulles Destination: Los Angeles, CA and San Diego, CA Return City: Baltimore Washington
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Center Forward
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Visits with pharmaceutical manufacturers and researchers, visits with local hospitals. Discussing ways Congress can incentivize innovation in the pharmaceutical space.
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: Alexander Sells Date: 8/13/2025

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: Mike Kelly Date: 8/13/2025

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: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Travel Destination(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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				
Accompanying Family Member				

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: R. G. Kill Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

*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

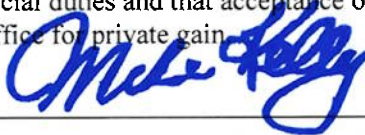
## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Alexander Sells
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Center Forward
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Los Angeles and San Diego, California
4. a. Date of Departure: 8/5/2025 Date of Return: 8/9/2025  
b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: 8/9/2025
5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
  - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other(specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?  
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.  
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**  
As a Legislative Assistant for Rep. Mike Kelly, who serves on the Ways & Means Committee, Mr. Sells can offer perspectives on federal efforts to encourage financial incentives for investing in startups and early-stage companies bringing innovations to the market, and how Members of Congress can lead efforts to innovate in healthcare.
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: \_\_\_\_\_

7/23/2025

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

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

2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**

b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**

c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

a.  The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**

b.  The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**

c.  The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
  - b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
  - c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
  - d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. \_\_\_\_\_
- 

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**

- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
  - b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

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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:

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14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:

- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_
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16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_



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

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

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



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Jordan Downs  
*Chief of Staff to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

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

August 1, 2025

Mr. Alexander Sells  
Office of the Honorable Mike Kelly  
1707 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Sells:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Los Angeles and San Diego, California, scheduled for August 5 to 9, 2025, sponsored by Center Forward. We note that this trip includes one day at your personal expense.

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.

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:amr

**Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental**

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Katy	Albiani	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Vince Fong	As Senior Legislative Assistant to a member of the California delegation and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Ms. Albiani can speak to investments in emerging technologies as a part of the healthcare ecosystem.
Elizabeth	Beltran	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Troy Carter	As Legislative Assistant to a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. Beltran can provide insights on ways in which Congress and the federal government can invest in technological innovations.
Cameryn	Blackmore	Senior Health Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Terri Sewell	As Senior Health Policy Advisor to a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Ms. Blackmore can offer perspectives on Congress's efforts to expand or improve existing tax incentives in the healthcare innovation sector.
Anne-Marie	Boisseau	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Lizzie Fletcher	As Legislative Director to a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. Boisseau can provide insights on the room for federal support to investments in critical innovative technological industries.
Jack	Boyd	Deputy Chief of Staff	Office of Representative Claudia Tenney	As Deputy Chief of Staff to a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Boyd can offer insight on how Congress intends to incentivize innovation in the healthcare sector through expanding or improving existing tax incentives.
Alex	DeRiso	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Troy Balderson	As Legislative Assistant to a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. DeRiso can provide new perspectives for how stakeholders can encourage investments within the technological industry and promote healthcare innovation.
Michelle	Galdamez	Senior Health Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Robin Kelly	As Senior Health policy Advisor to a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. Galdamez can provide insights on federal efforts to innovate within healthcare, particularly within critical technological industries.

**Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental**

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Jack	Ganter	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Buddy Carter	As Legislative Director to a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Ganter can provide information on the emerging healthcare issues that will need to be addressed in order to modernize healthcare and spur investment into new technological solutions.
Madison	Hughes	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Steven Horsford	As Senior Legislative Assistant to a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Ms. Hughes can contribute to and lead conversations surrounding incentives for healthcare innovation including expanding or improving certain tax credits and incentives.
Joel	Keralis	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Adrian Smith	As Legislative Director to a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Keralis can offer perspectives on Congress's efforts to reorganize tax incentives within the healthcare sector to encourage further innovations.
Tyler	Mortier	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative John Joyce	As Legislative Assistant to a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Mortier is able to speak to how the federal government can help fund and promote investment in vital, cutting-edge technological industries which spur healthcare innovation.
Alex	Sells	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Mike Kelly	As a Legislative Assistant to Rep. Mike Kelly, who serves on the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Sells can offer perspectives on federal efforts to encourage financial incentives for investing in startups and early-stage companies bringing innovations to the market, and how Members of Congress can lead efforts to innovate in healthcare.
Carly	Sincavitch	Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Eric Swalwell	As a Policy Advisor to a member of the California delegation and the Judiciary Committee, Ms. Sincavitch can speak to federal protections and incentives for sharing intellectual property, which is essential to innovation and new business growth.

**Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental**

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Sarah	Skirmont	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Linda Sanchez	As Legislative Director for a member of the California delegation and the Ways and Means Committee, Ms. Skirmont can speak to the ways that the Federal government can incentivize innovation, giving particular attention to the ways that California stakeholders benefit or are harmed by individual federal policies.
Olivia	Speno	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative David Valadao	As Legislative Assistant to a member of the California delegation and the Appropriations Committee, Ms. Speno can speak to federal investments supporting healthcare development.
Peter	Stein	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Diana Harshbarger	As Senior Policy Advisor to a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Stein can offer insights into opportunities for federal support of investments in key emerging technology sectors within healthcare.
Rhett	Styles	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Nicole Maliotakis	As Legislative Assistant to a member of the Ways and Means Committee and Subcommittee on Tax, Mr. Styles can illustrate how healthcare and taxation are intertwined and how Congress can best position itself to be a driver of healthcare innovation rather than a deterrent.
Emma	Vogel	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Adam Gray	As Legislative Assistant for a member of the California delegation and the Agriculture Committee, Ms. Vogel can offer insights on federal investment into healthcare research and public-private partnerships as they relate to nutrition, soil health, and the SNAP safety net.
Kobe	Walker	Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Greg Landsman	As Policy Advisor to a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. Walker can assist in leading conversations surrounding healthcare innovation within technological industries.

**Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental**

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Reason</b>
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12. Sponsor's interest in the subject matter and role in organizing the trip:

Center Forward's Healthcare Innovation Conference is being convened to bring together a bipartisan group of senior legislative staffers from the House of Representatives to discuss innovation and development in America's critical healthcare industries and how the federal government can foster business growth and further scientific progress. Center Forward's organizational mission is to provide centrists with the information they need to craft common-sense solutions and provide support in turning those ideas into results. Center Forward brings together Members of Congress, their staffs, not-for-profits, academic experts, trade associations, corporations, and unions to find common ground.

Center Forward is the sole organizer of the trip. Center Forward is planning the conference and is responsible for the organization and execution of the event logistics as well as the programming content. Discussion topics will include the venture capital ecosystem, innovative technologies, artificial intelligence applications for healthcare, supply chain onshoring, solutions for health disparities, new public-private partnership opportunities, and workforce development initiatives to support sensitive and growing industries. Conference attendees will be senior legislative staffers from House member offices, and will speak with researchers, business leaders, startup founders, academics, and local government officials in the Southern California area.

15.b.2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:

Southern California, specifically Los Angeles and San Diego, were selected as the location for the conference to give attendees an on-the-ground experience in two of America's largest innovation hub cities. The Southern California corridor has been the newest epicenter of healthcare innovation in the last decade. Coupled with a world-class universities providing a remarkable workforce pool, some of the most innovative and successful American companies have chosen to make a home in this portion of the country. Throughout the conference, attendees will see the results of investment in these industries and learn about the unique culture that attracts business growth and talent from around the world.



Healthcare Innovation Conference | Conference Agenda  
Los Angeles, California — Tuesday, August 5 - Wednesday August 6, 2025  
San Diego, California — Thursday, August 7 - Saturday, August 9, 2025

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Center Forward Contact Information

Daniel Garza | 770-827-0242 | [daniel@center-forward.org](mailto:daniel@center-forward.org)  
Aidan Clements | 980-263-7325 | [aidan@center-forward.org](mailto:aidan@center-forward.org)  
Ciara Nolan | 248-212-4173 | [ciara@center-forward.org](mailto:ciara@center-forward.org)

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<p><b>Tuesday, August 5th, 2025</b></p>
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**3:43 pm ET**

Staff departs Dulles International Airport (IAD)

United Airlines Flight 1101 | 05h 27min flight time

**6:10 pm PT**

Staff arrive at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

*Collect luggage and walk towards the Arrival Hall. Center Forward staff will be there to greet you. After everyone has gathered, the driver will depart the airport.*

**6:10 pm - 7:30 pm**

Depart Los Angeles International Airport en route to Cafe Santorini in Pasadena

64 West Union St, Pasadena, CA

**7:30 pm - 9:00 pm**

Dinner – Investment in Critical Healthcare Innovation

*Staff will hear from Amgen leadership, one of the nation's leading biotechnology companies headquartered in the Southern California region. Drawing from his experience overseeing early-stage scientific discovery and development, the speaker will reflect on the essential role of federal investment in sustaining the U.S. life sciences ecosystem – from NIH funding and public-private partnerships to regulatory science and the modernization of reimbursement frameworks. He will also share why Los Angeles has rapidly emerged*

*as a hub for healthcare innovation, highlighting the region's talent pipeline, research institutions, and expanding biotech infrastructure.*

*The conversation will touch on how thoughtful federal government support can accelerate medical breakthroughs, and where policymakers may need to step back to let innovation thrive.*

Speakers Include:

- Jay Bradner, Executive Vice President, Research and Development, Amgen

**9:00 pm - 9:15 pm**

Drive to the Langham Pasadena for hotel check-in

1401 S Oak Knoll Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91106

## Wednesday, August 6th, 2025

### BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN

Continental breakfast is available in Club Room from 6:30 am - 11:00 am

**\*\*Business Casual attire. Closed-toed shoes.**

- 8:20 am** Attendees meet in the hotel conference room.
- 8:30 am - 9:00 am** Transit to University of Southern California University Park Campus  
3551 Trousdale Parkway, Los Angeles, CA 90089
- 9:00 am - 11:00 am** Tour and Presentation of the University of Southern California
- While at the University of Southern California, staff will explore how one of the nation's leading research institutions is driving innovation across health sciences and biomedical engineering. The program will begin with a welcome from university leadership and a guided campus tour, providing an overview of USC's impact in education, research, and healthcare delivery.*
- Staff will then engage in a series of focused lab visits highlighting groundbreaking work in neurosciences, Alzheimer's research, and ophthalmology. The labs will highlight brain modeling and the development of the "bionic eyes". Throughout the visit, faculty experts will showcase how federal investment in research fuels medical innovation, while offering staff opportunities for Q&A about the future of interdisciplinary collaboration, translational medicine, and public-private partnerships in innovation.*
- Speakers include:
- Sam Adams, Chief Strategy Officer, University of Southern California Athletics
  - Dr. Kassandra Elliot, Assistant Professor of Research Physiology and Neuroscience, University of Southern California
  - Dr. Charles Liu, Professor of Clinical Neurological Surgery, University of Southern California
  - Dr. Dan Nation, Professor of Gerontology and Medicine, University of Southern California
- 11:00 am - 11:30 am** Transit to Takeda

4501 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA

**11:30 am - 1:30 pm** Tour and Presentation of Takeda

*Staff will tour Takeda's state-of-the-art plasma manufacturing facility to gain a deeper understanding of how plasma-derived therapies are developed to treat rare and complex diseases. The program will begin with a working lunch and presentation by senior leadership, highlighting Takeda's history in plasma innovation, the patients it serves, and the company's ongoing role in advancing treatments that address critical unmet needs. Staff will then rotate through guided tours of Takeda's laboratory and manufacturing sites, including the fractionation, purification, and robotics operations that power large-scale plasma therapy production.*

*The visit will conclude with a patient speaker, offering a personal story connecting the science to the life-changing impact of these therapies. Throughout the visit, discussions will focus on how federal policies can support the plasma ecosystem and foster continued innovation in rare disease care.*

Speakers include:

- Dayna Fladhammer, Director of Immunoglobulin Community Support Group, Takeda
- Vanessa Fontanes, Head of Quality Control Labs, Takeda
- Zhanna Ghevorkian, Head of Purification Manufacturing, Takeda
- Babak Haghiri, Head of Los Angeles Plasma Site, Global Manufacturing and Supply Operating Unit, Takeda
- Steven Weinstein, Fractionation Site Lead, Takeda

**1:30 pm - 2:15 pm** Transit to Kite

2355 Utah Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245

**2:15 pm - 4:15 pm** Tour and Presentation of Kite

*Staff will visit Kite Pharma's state of the art cell therapy manufacturing facility, where personalized CAR T-cell treatments are developed and delivered to cancer patients across the country. Through conversations with Kite's leadership team, including experts in translational research, technical operations, and clinical application, attendees will explore the scientific and logistical complexity of delivering individualized cancer therapies at scale. The visit will also feature firsthand insights from a CAR T-cell therapy*

*patient, offering a powerful perspective on the human impact of innovation.*

*Discussions will focus on the future of cell and gene therapy, regulatory frameworks for novel biologics, and access considerations for patients facing life-threatening diseases.*

Speakers include:

- Laurie Adami, CAR T-cell therapy patient
- Laura Alquist, Senior Vice President, Global Head of Technical Operations, Kite
- Dr. David Barrett, Vice President, Cell Biology Research & Translational Medicine Lead, Kite
- Mitra Cruz, Vice President, Manufacturing Operations & El Segundo Facility Site Head, Kite
- Cindy Perettie, Executive Vice President, Global Head of Pharma, Kite

**4:15 pm - 5:00 pm** Transit to Langham Pasadena  
1401 S Oak Knoll Avenue, Pasadena, CA, 91106

**5:00 pm - 6:30 pm** Break

**6:30 pm - 6:45 pm** Drive to Parkway Grill in Pasadena  
510 South Arroyo Parkway, Pasadena, CA

**6:45 pm - 8:45 pm** Dinner with United Firefighters of Los Angeles City

*Frank Lima will speak to the critical healthcare repercussions facing first responders in the wake of the recent Los Angeles wildfires. Drawing from firsthand experience and leadership within the firefighting community, he will highlight the growing toll these disasters are taking on firefighters, from severe respiratory impacts caused by prolonged smoke exposure to the mental health consequences of sustained trauma, loss, and burnout. As wildfires become more frequent and intense, Mr. Lima will underscore the urgent need for stronger federal support and resources to protect the long-term physical and mental well-being of this essential workforce.*

Speakers Include:

- Frank Lima, Union President and Fire Captain with the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City

**Thursday, August 7th, 2025**

**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**

Continental breakfast is available in Club Room from 6:30 am - 11:00 am

**\*\*Business casual attire for the day. Closed-toed shoes.**

**8:30 am** Attendees meet in the hotel conference room.

**8:30 am - 10:00 am** Transit to Edwards Life Sciences

1 Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm** Tour and Presentation of Edwards Lifesciences

*Staff will visit the global headquarters of Edwards Lifesciences, a leader in heart valve technologies and critical care innovation, to explore the company's work at the forefront of medical device development. The site visit will include guided tours through Edward's R&D and manufacturing labs, offering a firsthand look at how life-saving technologies move from concept to patient care.*

*Following the tour, senior leadership will lead a discussion on the unique policy challenges facing the medical device industry from FDA regulation and Medicare reimbursement to supply chain resilience and workforce development. The conversation will highlight where the federal government has helped accelerate innovation and where more flexibility could unlock greater progress in advancing patient access and outcomes.*

Speakers include:

- Don Bobo, Corporate Vice President, Edwards Lifesciences
- Todd Brinton, Corporate Vice President, Edwards Lifesciences
- Diane Francis, Senior Vice President, Edwards Lifesciences
- Scott Herzog, Sr. Director, Communications, Edwards Lifesciences
- Sarah Huoh, Corporate Vice President, Public Affairs, Edwards Lifesciences
- Dirksen Lehman, Head of Global Government Affairs, Edwards Lifesciences
- Heather Villarreal, Sr. Director, Government Affairs, Edwards Lifesciences

**12:00 pm - 1:15 pm** Transit to Ionis Pharmaceuticals | Understanding the Priority Review Program Briefing

2855 Gazelle Court, Carlsbad, CA 92010

*Center Forward staff will provide an educational briefing on the FDA's Priority Review Voucher (PRV) program, with a focus on its application to rare diseases. The discussion will outline how PRVs serve as a market-based incentive to spur drug development in areas with limited commercial viability, such as rare pediatric conditions. Staff will explain the mechanics of the program, including how vouchers are awarded upon approval of qualifying therapies and can then be sold or transferred on the open market to expedite the FDA review of another product. The briefing will also touch on the policy rationale behind the program and its role in promoting innovation while facilitating timely access to life-saving treatments.*

Speakers Include:

- Daniel Garza, Senior Healthcare Program Manager, Center Forward
- Katie Vlietstra Wonnemberg, Advisory Board, Center Forward

**1:15 pm - 3:15 pm**

Tour and Presentation of Ionis

*Staff will tour Ionis Pharmaceuticals' state-of-the-art R&D facilities and engage in a policy-focused discussion on the role of RNA-targeted therapeutics in advancing treatment for rare and neurological diseases. The presentation will highlight Ionis' pioneering work in genetic medicine, its translational research pipeline, and the public-private ecosystem that supports biomedical innovation.*

*Staff will gain insight into how early-stage research moves from discovery to clinical development, and the unique challenges involved in bringing first-in-class therapies to patients. This visit offers a firsthand look at one of California's leading biotech innovators and its contributions to the future of personalized medicine.*

Speakers include:

- Beth Hougen, Chief Financial Officer, Ionis
- Holly Kordasiewicz, Senior Vice President, Neurology Research, Ionis
- Hala Mirza, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Ionis
- Dr. Brett Monia, Chief Executive Officer, Ionis
- Eric Swayze, Executive Vice President, Research, Ionis

**3:15 pm - 4:15 pm**

Transit to the Kona Kai

1551 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92106

**4:15 pm - 6:15 pm** Check-in and break

**6:15 pm - 6:30 pm** Walk to Humphrey's

2303 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA

**6:30 pm - 8:30 pm** Dinner with City of San Diego Officials

*Mayor Todd Gloria will outline the city's strategic efforts—such as public-private partnerships, targeted tax incentives, and streamlined permitting—to attract leading biotech and life sciences firms. Highlighting initiatives like expanding healthcare incubators, fostering collaboration between UC San Diego and local startups, and investing in digital health infrastructure, Gloria will demonstrate how San Diego is advancing in healthcare innovation.*

Speakers Include:

- Mayor Todd Gloria, Mayor of San Diego

## Friday, August 8th, 2025

### BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN

Continental breakfast is available in Club Room from 6:30 am - 11:00 am

**\*\*Business casual attire for the day. Closed-toed shoes.**

**8:30 am** Attendees meet in the hotel conference room.

**8:30 am - 9:00 am** Transit to Rady Children's Hospital

3020 Children's Way, San Diego, CA 92123

**9:00 am - 11:00 am** Tour and Presentation of Rady Children's Hospital

*During this visit, staff will tour Rady Children's Hospital and hear from senior leadership about the hospital's cutting-edge work in pediatric healthcare innovation. This discussion will focus on how Rady's nationally recognized genomics program is transforming the diagnosis and treatment of rare and genetic diseases in children, highlighting the critical role of rapid whole genome sequencing in emergency and intensive care settings.*

*Staff will also engage with the hospital's senior leadership team to understand the federal and state policy landscape affecting pediatric healthcare delivery, research funding, and patient access to advanced therapies. The visit will provide a unique opportunity to see how investments in precision medicine are improving outcomes for the youngest and most vulnerable populations.*

Speakers include:

- Clara Evans, Vice President of Government Affairs, Rady Children's Hospital
- Patrick Frias, President and CEO, Rady Children's Hospital
- Lynn Perez, Senior Vice President and Executive Director, Genomics Operations, Rady Children's Hospital

**11:00 am - 11:30 am** Transit to Neurocrine

6027 Edgewood Bend Court, San Diego, CA 92130

**11:30 am - 1:30 pm** Tour and Presentation of Neurocrine

*While at Neurocrine's facilities, staff will tour the headquarters with senior leaders to discuss the company's mission-driven focus on*

*developing treatments for patients with neurological and endocrine-related disorders. The session will explore how Neurocrine approaches high-risk, high-reward science to address conditions like Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, and tardive dyskinesia—areas where therapeutic options remain limited.*

*Executives will share insights into the innovation environment in Southern California, the role of federal policy in shaping biotech investment, and how long-term research commitments can lead to breakthroughs in underfunded areas of medicine. This visit will offer a unique look into how a midsize biotech company is navigating regulatory, financial, and public health landscapes to bring new therapies to market.*

Speakers include:

- Matt Abernathy, Chief Financial Officer, Neurocrine
- David Boyer, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Neurocrine
- Dr. Kyle Gano, Chief Executive Officer, Neurocrine

**1:30 pm - 1:45 pm**

Transit to Exact Sciences

11085 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037

**1:45 pm - 3:45 pm**

Tour and Presentation of Exact Sciences

*Congressional staff will tour Exact Sciences' advanced diagnostics facility and hear from senior scientific leadership about the company's work in early cancer detection and molecular testing. The briefing will explore how Exact Sciences integrates cutting-edge bioinformatics, statistical modeling, and multi-cancer screening technology to drive earlier interventions and improved outcomes.*

*Attendees will learn how the company's innovation in non-invasive screening is helping redefine cancer care, while also supporting public health goals around access and early detection. With insights from the company's leadership team - spanning product development, R&D, and technology assessment - staff will gain a comprehensive view of the policy, regulatory, and reimbursement considerations that shape precise diagnostics.*

Speakers include:

- Gina Costa, Vice President, Product Development, Exact Sciences
- Frank Diehl, Senior Vice President, Research & Development, Exact Sciences

- Jorge Garcas, Executive Vice President, Chief Science Officer, Exact Sciences
- Isaac Kinde, Vice President, Technology Assessment, Exact Sciences
- Amin Mazloom, Senior Vice President, Bioinfo, Biostatistics, & Data, Exact Sciences

**3:45 pm - 4:15 pm**

Transit to Kona Kai

1551 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92106

**4:15 pm - 6:15 pm**

Break

**6:15 pm - 6:30 pm**

Walk to Blue Wave Bar and Grill

**6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Dinner with Camp Pendleton Representatives

*Representatives from Camp Pendleton will address the indispensable role of comprehensive healthcare for active-duty Marines and our veteran community. They will discuss the base's integrated approach—combining preventive medicine, mental health services, and innovative telehealth programs—to safeguard the physical readiness and resilience of active personnel. Equally vital, they'll highlight transitioning care protocols that ensure veterans receive seamless access to critical services such as PTSD treatment, substance-use recovery, and rehabilitative care. The officials will emphasize how these healthcare initiatives not only enhance mission readiness but also honor our commitment to those who have served.*

Speakers Include:

- Captain Jenny S. Burkett, Commanding Officer, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Camp Pendleton (*Invited*)

**Saturday, August 9th, 2025**

**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**

Continental breakfast is available in Club Room from 6:30 am - 11:00 am

- 7:35 am**                      Staff depart for San Diego International Airport
- United Airlines Flight 1071 | 05h 17m flight time
- 4:00 pm**                      Staff arrive at Washington Reagan Airport