

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.

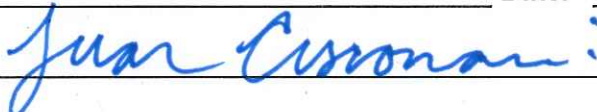
1. Name of Traveler: Caroline Bender
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: Sept 21 Return: Sept 27
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington DC Destination: Nairobi Return City: Washington DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Aspen Institute
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Malnutrition, former USAID funded projects, state department funded projects global fund projects, US companies operating in Kenya, and meetings with NGO's operating across the country
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: 10/09/2025

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: Rep. Juan Ciscomani (AZ-06) Date: 10/09/2025

Signature of Supervising Member: 

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.

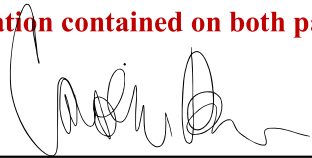
Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee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

Name of Traveler: Caroline Bender

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. Ciscomani

Office Address: 461 Cannon HOB

Telephone Number: 202-604-5369

Email Address of Contact Person: caroline.bender@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

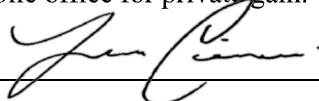
1. Name of Traveler: Caroline Bender
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Aspen Institute, Eleanor Crook Foundati
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Kenya
4. a. Date of Departure: Sept. 21 Date of Return: Sept. 27
b. Yes No Will you be extending 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 serve as Deputy Chief of Staff to Rep. Juan Ciscomani (AZ-06) who sits on the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Agencies. This trip will allow me to better understand malnutrition issues particularly and US government funding roles in the 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: 08/21/2025

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:

The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

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

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

- a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
- b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
- c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: The Eleanor Crook Foundation

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

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

6. Date of Departure: September 21, 2025 Date of Return: September 27, 2025

7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C. (Dulles IAD airport)

b. Destination(s): Nairobi, Kenya and Masai Mara, Kenya

c. City of return: Washington, D.C. (Dulles IAD airport)

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:
See Appendix.
-
-

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:
Please see appendix for charter explanation.
-

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): _____
\$70
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: **The location was chosen to examine U.S. foreign policy issues in Africa with in-country educational site visits.**

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

Hotel Name: Emara Ole Sereni City: Nairobi, Kenya Cost Per Night: \$250
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Convenient location to site visits

Hotel Name: Porini Lion Camp City: Masai Mara Cost Per Night: \$325
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Allows for site visits and onsite briefings

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

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$10,817	\$1,075	\$135
For each Accompanying Family Member			


	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$1,342	Security, visas, conservation fees
For each Accompanying Family Member		

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: August 21, 2025
 Name: Charles Dent Title: VP, The Aspen Institute
 Organization: The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
 Address: 2300 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037
 Email: lisa.jones@aspeninstitute.org Telephone: 202-736-5859

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

HOUSE APPENDIX
Aspen Institute Congressional Program
U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa:
Interests, Opportunities, and Challenges
September 21-27, 2025

Question 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.

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

1. Bender, Caroline: Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Juan Ciscomani; House Committee on Appropriations
2. Dufault, Claire: Director of Operations, House Foreign Affairs Committee
3. Hutson, Matt: Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Andy Harris; House Committee on Appropriations
4. Mocete, Patrick: Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Young Kim; House Committee on Financial Services; House Committee on Foreign Affairs; House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party
5. Paris-Behr, Caroline: Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Lauren Underwood; House Committee on Appropriations
6. Smith, Chandler: Legislative Director, Office of Rep. Guy Reschenthaler; House Committee on Appropriations
7. Hartl, Kellie: Legislative Director, Office of Rep. David Valadao; House Committee on Appropriations
8. Alpert, Matt: Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Norma Torres; House Committee on Appropriations
9. Dinegar, Tom: Legislative Director, Office of Rep. Grace Meng; House Committee on Appropriations
10. Hamb, Ed: Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Jonathan Jackson; House Committee on Foreign Affairs; House Committee on Agriculture
11. Kaguyutan, Janice: Chief Counsel, House Foreign Affairs Committee
12. Nelson, Tim: Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Ed Case; House Committee on Appropriations
13. Pierre-Louis, Naomie: Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick; House Committee on Foreign Affairs
14. Russell, Robyn: Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Mike Quigley; House Committee on Appropriations
15. Tsafoulis, Christina: Senior Professional Staff Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee
16. Watkins, Yebbie: Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Jim Clyburn, House Committee on Appropriations

Question 12:

With Africa facing complex security, economic, and development challenges amid growing geopolitical competition, this convening continues AICP's mission of helping lawmakers and their staff engage thoughtfully with the most pressing issues of our time. AICP organized and conducted the conference and

selected and invited the attendees. The foundation listed in 3C, The Eleanor Crook Foundation, did not play a role in organizing or conducting the conference. The foundation provided grant funding for the program.

Question 13 (c):

We are using a charter flight for the trip to the Dadaab Refugee Camp as there are no commercial flights to the camp and charter is the only way to visit the Dadaab refugee camp.

We are also utilizing a charter flight for our trip to the Masai Mara since the location is remote and hard to reach (a specific airstrip). Charter is necessary due to limited commercial flights, twice a day at inopportune times for our schedule and unreliability of scheduled flights servicing the route (e.g. last-minute stops added and changes to aircraft size resulting in over-booking).

Question 15 (b) (continued):

The location was chosen as a backdrop to examine a range of issues with significant policy implications for both the United States and Africa. Through a mix of field visits to health, agriculture, and other program sites, as well as expert-led fireside chats and roundtable discussions, participants will delve into the security, economic, and development challenges facing Africa—and the ways in which the United States is engaging in response. Discussions will highlight threats to U.S. national security across the continent, alongside the growing influence of China and Russia. The agenda will also cover key development areas such as public health, food security and malnutrition. The visit to the Masai Mara will cover the issues of wildlife trafficking and conservation. Attendees will have the chance to interact with local Kenyans and reflect on the evolving future of U.S.-Africa relations.

Question 16 (continued):

The facilit(ies) have required technology, meeting space, and are able to provide food with Western standard food handling and preparation practices. Security is a key factor as well.



**CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRAM**
aspen institute

U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa: Interests, Opportunities, and Challenges

September 21-27, 2025 | Nairobi, Kenya and Masai Mara, Kenya

AGENDA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:

10:55 AM Participants depart the U.S. from IAD airport, Dulles, VA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22:

1:10 PM: U.S. participants arrive in Nairobi, Kenya

2:00- 2:30 PM: U.S. participants travel to Emara Ole hotel

2:30 PM: U.S. participants check into hotel and get settled

3:00 - 6:30 PM: Executive Time (rest and prepare for dinner)

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner with Khalda Mohammed, Kenya Red Cross
Discussion with a representative from the Kenya Red Cross Society with a focus on refugees living in Kenya.

Overnight in Nairobi

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23:

6:30 – 8:30 AM: Breakfast

9:00 - 10:30 AM: Travel from Nairobi to Naivasha

10:30 – 12 PM: Educational Site Visit with Dave Payne, Chief Revenue Officer, Kentegra

Kentegra Biotechnology Pyrethrum Processing Facility, Naivasha

Once Kenya's third largest export, pyrethrum is a naturally occurring mixture of chemicals found in chrysanthemums that are extracted and refined into pale refined

extract (PRE), an active ingredient used to formulate organic insecticides and pesticides. Kenya contributed more than 80 percent of the global supply and was a major supplier to the U.S. until the late 1990s, with over 300,000 farmers growing chrysanthemums.

Kentegra Biotechnology, a U.S. firm based in Kenya, is at the forefront of the pyrethrum revival. The company has contracted with more than 20,000 farmers, 46 percent of whom are women, and has invested over \$4.5 million to build a factory in Athi River. The organization operates two nurseries in Nakuru County. Kentegra partners with the U.S. Development Finance Corporation.

12 – 1 PM: Working Lunch with Dave Payne, Chief Revenue Officer, Kentegra

Mr. Payne will provide an overview of Kentegra biotechnology including its business platform and partnership with the U.S. Development Finance Corporation.

2:30 – 4 PM: Educational Site Visit

International Livestock Research Institute, Nairobi

Shirley Tarawali, Director, International Livestock Research Institute, will be our tour guide and moderate the discussion.

Food insecurity continues to be a major issue facing millions of people throughout Kenya. On this day, the delegation will hear from researchers and scientists on ways that the government of Kenya is working to provide a more resilient food safety system for farmers and the most vulnerable populations. The delegation will spend 2 hours touring the main research center and have a roundtable discussion with front line food security specialists.

**6:15 – 7 PM: Pre-Dinner Remarks:
*Opportunities for American Businesses in Africa***

Speaker:

Maxwell Okello, CEO, American Chamber of Commerce, Kenya

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner with NGO Representatives

Hajir Maalim, Regional Director Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa, Plan International

Hanna Dagnachew, Deputy Regional Director for Programming Quality, Southern Africa Region, Catholic Relief Services

Dr. Edward Kariithi, Director of Programs, Kenya, PATH

Annie Wakanyi, Director, Global Government Partnerships, One Acre Fund

Discussions to focus on aid work in Kenya

Overnight in Nairobi

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24:

6 – 6:45 AM: Breakfast

6:45 – 7 AM: Transit to airport

8 – 9:30 AM: Board flight and travel to Dadaab Refugee Camp

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM: Educational Site Visit

Dadaab Refugee Camp

Dadaab Refugee Camp, located in eastern Kenya near the border with Somalia, was established in 1992 as a temporary location for Somalis fleeing from civil war. Over the years, famine and drought have forced growing numbers of Somalis to seek housing in Dadaab. Today, the camp is the world's largest, housing over 432,000 refugees and asylum seekers, supporting children and families from primarily Somalia.

The camp is managed by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with food support provided through the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP), water and sanitation by CARE, and health care by the Kenya Red Cross Society. The United States, in the past, has been a major contributor to UNHCR and WFP, providing over \$800 million in assistance to refugees in Kenya, including Dadaab. More recently, however, American commitments to both organizations have declined significantly.

Khalda Mohammed, Kenya Red Cross, will guide our tour and visit

3:30 – 5 PM Board plane and travel from Dadaab Refugee Camp back to Nairobi with Khalda Mohammed

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner

Discussions to focus on learnings from the site visit to the Dadaab Refugee Camp

Overnight in Nairobi

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25:

6:30 – 8 AM: Breakfast

8:15 – 10 AM: Educational Site Visit

Global Fund School Visit:

HIV/AIDS continues to be a great educational problem in Kenya. Educating school age students is the front line of fighting against this disease. On this day, the delegation will

visit a secondary school in Nairobi and hear directly from students about the challenges facing them every day and what they are learning about HIV/AIDS and prevention. The students will share what they have learned from peer education & empowerment programs targeting HIV/AIDS that are paid for directly by the Global Fund. We will spend time with the students in a roundtable, Q&A format, at the Oshwal Primary School. **Discussion to be led and moderated by Khalda Mohammed, Kenya Red Cross.**

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM Transit to Airport

11:30 AM – 1 PM: Flight to Masai Mara National Reserve

1:15 PM - 1:30 PM Drive to the Conservancy

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM Working Lunch

The Masai Mara National Reserve scientists will talk about the process of conservation, its impact on global wildlife, the local economy, and political stability.

**2 – 3:30 PM: Educational Site Visit
Maa Trust and Maa Beadwork Project**

Meeting with and tour led by Daniel Sophia, CEO of the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association

The Maa Trust is a non-profit organisation working with community-owned conservancies in the Masai Mara, Kenya. Its mission is to increase the benefits of wildlife and conservation to Masai families so that they value and contribute to the protection of wild animals on their land. The Maa Trust empowers local people by promoting small business startups & micro finance schemes, enabling them to make their own money and to invest in their family's development. Their members identify their needs and wish lists of items, and The Maa Trust helps them to save up for and attain these. Despite a severe lack of education for girl children in previous years, the female beadwork and honey projects are now providing a way for these women to invest in clean drinking water for their homes, a solar power alternative firewood, and the ability to send more of their children to school.

Maa Beadwork is a social enterprise established by The Maa Trust as a sustainable alternative livelihood to generate income for Masai women and their families. Beading is a tribal art and talent of Masai women, who have been famed for their adornment for centuries.

3:30 PM- 4:00 PM: Transit to Porini Lion Camp

4:00 PM: Check in at Camp

4:30 - 7:00 PM: Afternoon field Drive briefing with Daniel Sophia, CEO of the Masai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA)

Daniel Sophia will brief the delegation on the community conservancy model in the Masai Mara, including its history, unique ownership and land-use rights, and the direct support they have received from the US government. This discussion will further

illustrate how the conservancy model generates sustainable incomes for individual landowners. The Masai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association is a membership organization of the Mara Conservancies established in 2013. They have a mandate from landowners and tourism parties to play an overarching coordination role for Greater Mara Ecosystem stakeholders. Currently, there are 24 conservancies at different stages of development, covering about 450,000 acres. The member conservancies bring together over 15,000 landowners who annually receive approximately 7.5 million paid as lease fees.

7:30 - 8:00 PM: Return to Camp

8:00 – 9:30 PM: Working Dinner with Dr Mohanjeet Brar (PhD) Managing Director - *Gamewatchers & Porini Camps*

Dr. Brar will brief the delegation on the role of sustainable tourism in supporting conservation. The delegation will gain a better understanding of the ecotourism models in Kenya and the economic opportunities presented for local communities.

Mohanjeet started his career as the Managing Director of Gamewatchers Safaris & Porini Camps in 2005. In 2019, he became a Trustee of the Wildlife Habitat Trust and a Board Member of the Kenya Tourism Board. Mohanjeet also served as a Board Member of the Masai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association from 2013 to 2021.

Overnight in Masai Mara

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26:

6:30 - 9:00 AM: Field drive briefing to observe predator activity and discuss human-wildlife conflict

Conservancy representatives will guide participants to track lion pride movements, discussing, en route, the important role lions and other predators play in the ecosystem as well as the Masai's historical relationship with lions and present threats of human-wildlife conflict. This discussion will provide participants with key background information and observations on how predators, in particular, support the overall health of the ecosystem, human-wildlife conflict, traditional practices of indigenous groups, and the challenges these create for local buy-in to ecotourism as a development solution.

9:00 – 9:45 AM: Breakfast with Niels Mogensen, Senior Program Scientist at the Mara Predator Hub

The Mara Predator Hub leads research on the Mara's top predators to help community members and landowners understand and appreciate the role of predators in the ecosystem, ensure that key stakeholders in the Greater Mara Ecosystem consistently utilise sound scientific information to inform conservation strategies, and support

stable, healthy predator populations in the Greater Mara Ecosystem by providing scientific evidence for conservation action.

10:30 AM: Return to Camp to pack

12 – 1:30 PM: Working Lunch with Dr. John Sankok, CEO of Community Health Partners (CHP)

Dr. Sankok will brief the delegation on CHP's health and community development programs. The delegation will learn how these programs work in tandem with the conservancy model to support human development in the communities. Community Health Partners has been on the forefront of healthcare since 1980, and played an especially big role during the COVID-19 pandemic. They work on two fronts: primary health care services and community development initiatives. Their overall strategic plan is to contribute to the delivery of quality, accessible, and affordable health services.

1:30 – 2:00 PM: Transit to landing strip

2:00 – 4:00 PM: Board flight and travel to Nairobi International Airport

6:00 PM: Participants depart to return to the United States

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27:

8:55 AM: Participants arrive in the U.S. at IAD, Dulles, VA

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

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

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: Aspen Institute Congressional Program
2. Name of your organization: The Eleanor Crook Foundation
3. Yes No Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes No Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
 - a. Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
 - b. Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to
Destination: Nairobi and Masai Mara, Kenya on Date: Sept. 21-27, 2025
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
 - c. Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
 - a. My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
 - b. My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **I certify by my signature that**
 - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
 - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
 - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
 - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 08/19/2025

Name: Mariana Becerra Title: Director of North American

Organization: Eleanor Crook Foundation

Address: 1049 30th St NW, Washington DC 20007, United States

Telephone: +1 (202) 766-0197 Email: Mbecerra@eleanorcrookfoundt

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

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

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

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



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

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

September 17, 2025

Ms. Caroline Bender
Office of the Honorable Juan Ciscomani
461 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Bender:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Kenya,¹ scheduled for September 21 to 27, 2025, sponsored by Aspen Institute, Inc. and Eleanor Crook 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:tn



**CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRAM**
aspen institute

Caroline Bender
Deputy Chief of Staff

Representative Juan Ciscomani
Washington, DC 20515-0306

Dear Caroline,

I would like to invite you to our bipartisan, bicameral congressional senior staff conference on ***U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa: Interests, Opportunities, and Challenges*** in **Nairobi and Maasai Mara, Kenya from September 21-27, 2025**, including travel dates. Please get back to us with your interest to attend the conference **by COB Wednesday, June 25, 2025**. These conference spots fill up quickly, so please RSVP as soon as possible. This invitation does not guarantee your participation in the conference.

This educational conference will examine a range of pressing issues with significant policy implications for both the United States and Africa. Through a mix of field visits to health, agriculture, and other program sites, as well as expert-led fireside chats and roundtable discussions, participants will delve into the security, economic, and development challenges facing Africa—and the ways in which the United States is engaging in response. Discussions will highlight threats to U.S. national security across the continent, alongside the growing influence of China and Russia. The agenda will also cover key development areas such as public health, food security and malnutrition, and the issues of wildlife trafficking and conservation. Attendees will have the chance to interact with local Kenyans and reflect on the evolving future of U.S.-Africa relations.

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

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

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

We hope you can join us for this important conference.

Sincerely,

Charlie Dent

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