# 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: Pooja Patel
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: September 25, 2026 Return: September 25, 2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: New York, NY Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Council on Foreign Relations
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:
   National security discussions were held.
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:** Pooja Patel **Date:** 10/5/2026

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. McCaul **Date:** 10//2026

**Signature of Supervising Member:** Rep McCaul Digitally signed by Rep McCaul Date: 2026.10.05 10:37:56 -04'00'

*last updated 7/2023*

# 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: Council on Foreign Relations
2. Travel Destination(s): New York, New York
3. Date of Departure: Friday, September 25, 2026 Date of Return: Friday, September 25, 2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Benjamin Cooper; Edyt Dickstein; Jennifer Miller; Kristofor Erickson; Lee Norton; Pooja Patel; Sam Elghanayan; Sara Engelhard

   ***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 | $610.20 | $0 | $78.47 | $0 |
| 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:** Jessica Harrington Digitally signed by Jessica Harrington Date: 2026.09.30 11:50:49 -04'00' **Date:** 9/30/2026

**Name:** Jessica Harrington **Title:** Associate Vice President, Government Affairs

**Organization:** Council on Foreign Relations

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

**Address:** 1777 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20006

**Telephone:** 202.509.8410 **Email:** jharrington@cfr.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.**

*last updated 7/2023*

# 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: Pooja Patel

**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: Pooja Patel

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Office of Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX)

Office Address: 2300 Rayburn House Office Building

Telephone Number: 202-225-2401

Email Address of Contact Person: pooja.patel@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: Pooja Patel
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: New York, NY
4. a. Date of Departure: September 25, 2026 Date of Return: September 25, 2026

   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 a participant in the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) Congressional Foreign Policy Study Group, I will be traveling to New York to meet with foreign policy, economic, and national security experts at CFR's headquarters.
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:** Rep McCaul Digitally signed by Rep McCaul Date: 2026.08.25 11:01:05 -04'00' **Date:** _____

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:

   Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)

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

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

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

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

   Each house staffer was invited because their work includes issues relevant to CFR's expertise including foreign policy, national security, global health, international economics, and similar global challenges.

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: Friday, September 25, 2026 Date of Return: Friday, September 25, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
   b. Destination(s): New York, NY
   c. City of return: Washington, DC
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

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

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:

   The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is the sole sponsor, organizer, and conductor of this trip. CFR is an independent think tank dedicated to educating policymakers on Capitol Hill. The program will allow participants to attend panel discussions and meet with foreign policy and national security experts located in CFR's New York office.

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

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

15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): Approximately $50 per day
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: The Council on Foreign Relations is headquartered in New York, NY

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

   Hotel Name: N/A City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: N/A City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: N/A 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:**

| ☐ Actual Amounts<br>☐ Good Faith Estimates | Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant | Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant | Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant |
|---|---|---|---|
| For each Member, Officer, or Employee | $550 | N/A | $50 |
| 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 | | |
| 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: Jessica Harrington Digitally signed by Jessica Harrington Date: 2026.07.16 12:26:46 -04'00' Date: 7/16/26

Name: Jessica Harrington Title: Associate Vice President

Organization: Council on Foreign Relations

Address: 1777 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006

Email: jharrington@cfr.org Telephone: 202-509-8410

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*

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

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

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

September 21, 2026

Ms. Pooja Patel
Office of the Honorable Michael T. McCaul
2300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Patel:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to New York, New York, scheduled for September 25, 2026, sponsored by Council on Foreign Relations.

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 $525 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:nl

COUNCIL on FOREIGN RELATIONS

1777 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006
tel 202.509.8400 fax 202.509.8490 www.cfr.org

# *Congressional Foreign Policy Study Group New York Program*

*Friday, September 25, 2026*

7:30 a.m. Depart Union Station (Acela 2104)

10:30 a.m. Arrive at New York Moynihan Train Hall

10:45 a.m. Transportation to Council on Foreign Relations New York Headquarters (58 East 68th Street, New York)

11:30 a.m. Arrive at Council on Foreign Relations

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Coffee Reception

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Networking Lunch
Participants will have the opportunity to meet and network with CFR members based in New York.

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Discussion with Mr. David Sacks, *Fellow for Asia Studies, Council on Foreign Relations*
Participants will discuss U.S.-China relations, escalating cross-strait tension, and Indo-Pacific security.

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Discussion with Ambassador Michelle Gavin, *Ralph Bunche Senior Fellow for Africa Policy Studies, Council on Foreign Relations*
Participants will discuss developments across the continent including U.S. diplomatic, security, and trade relations across the region.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Discussion with Dr. Benn Steil, *Senior Fellow and Director of International Economics, Council on Foreign Relations*
Participants will discuss U.S. trade and tariff policy, U.S. economic security, and the future of the global economy.

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Discussion with Vijay Vaitheeswaran, *Philip D. Reed Senior Fellow and Director of the Energy Security and Climate Change Program, Council on Foreign Relations*
Participants will discuss U.S. energy policy and innovation strategies to meet global energy demands.

5:00 p.m. Meeting Concludes; Depart CFR for New York Moynihan Train Hall

6:00 p.m. Depart New York Moynihan Train Hall (Acela 2127)

9:00 p.m. Arrive in Washington, DC

# U.S. House of Representatives Participants

Marcus Coleman
*U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security*

Benjamin Cooper
*U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs*

Edyt J. Dickstein
*U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*

Sam Elghanayan
*Office of Representative Ro Khanna*

Sara Engelhard
*Office of Representative Delia C. Ramirez*

Lee C. Norton
*Republican Study Committee*

Pooja Patel
*Office of Representative Michael T. McCaul*