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: Clare Plassche

2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____

3. a. Dates: Departure: October 3, 2026 Return: October 9, 2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None

4. Departure City: Washington, DC (IAD) Destination: Antananarivo, Madagascar Return City: Washington, DC

5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Aspen Institute, The Eleanor Crooks Foundation

6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: We had an in depth look at the entire ecosystem of global health and nutrition efforts in Madagascar.

   We were able to see sites where US funded programs were being facilitated including school feeding programs, pre and post natal care, community health visits, and vaccination clinics. In addition we met with relevant government agencies, international orgs and businesses involved in the prograr

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: Clare Plassche **Date:** 10/26/2026

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. Jared Moskowitz **Date:** 10/26/2026

Signature of Supervising Member: _____

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: The Aspen Institute Inc. (Congressional Program)
2. Travel Destination(s): Antananarivo and Fort Dauphin, Madagascar
3. Date of Departure: October 3, 2026 Date of Return: October 9, 2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Matt Alvero, James Gomez, Clare Plassche, Pragneya Sharma
   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	$14,916	$900	$284	$2606 - See Appendix
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: Charles Dent **Date:** 10/26/2026

Name: Charles Dent **Title:** Vice President and Executive

Organization: The Aspen Institute

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

Address: 2300 N Street NW Washington, DC 20037

Telephone: 202-736-5859 **Email:** lisa.jones@aspen intitute.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

1. Name of Traveler: Clare Plassche

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Aspen Institute Congressional Program
   The Eleanor Crook Foundation

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Madagascar

4. a. Date of Departure: October 3, 2026 Date of Return: October 9, 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 Deputy Chief of Staff to Rep. Jared Moskowitz, a member of HFAC, I advise him on all foreign affairs policy including U.S.-Africa relations, the focus of this trip. This conference is a unique opportunity to learn about the health, security, and development challenges in the region in the wake of the shuttering of USAID. It will give me the ability to provide Rep. Moskowitz with a detailed, on the ground, analysis of challenges in Madagascar.

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:** 9/2/2026

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:
   Aspen Institute 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): See Appendix
5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: October 3, 2026 Date of Return: October 9, 2026
7. a. City of departure: October 9, 2026
   b. Destination(s): Antananarivo and Fort Dauphin, Madagascar
   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:
   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:

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:
      Proximity and unique acsess to relevent sites and scholars for the confereces educational go

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Novotel Hotel City: Antananarivo, Madag Cost Per Night: $280
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Proximity to site visits and security
   Hotel Name: Ankoba Beach Hotel City: Fort Dauphin, Madag Cost Per Night: $170
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Proximity to site visits and security
   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:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$9814	$900	$230
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	$1535	Internet, Security, Doctors, Park Enterence 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: 10/26/2026

Name: Charles Dent Title: Vice President and Executi

Organization: The Aspen Institute

Address: 2300 N Street NW Washington, DC 20037

Email: lisa.jones@aspen intitute.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.

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 30, 2026

Ms. Clare Plassche
Office of the Honorable Jared Moskowitz
242 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Plassche:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Madagascar,[1] scheduled for October 3 to 9, 2026, 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 $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.

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 $525] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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[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:nl

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

2. Name of your organization: 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: Antananarivo, Madagascar on Date: _____ 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: 10/26/2026

Name: Charles Dent Title: Vice President and Ex

Organization: The Aspen Institute

Address: 2300 N Street NW Washington, DC 20037

Telephone: 202-736-5859 Email: lisa.jones@aspen intitute.

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

last updated 7/2023

HOUSE APPENDIX

Aspen Institute Congressional Program

"U.S.-Africa Relations: Health, Security, and Development"

October 3-9, 2026

Question 4: Provide names and titles of all House Employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited.

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

1. Matt Alvero, Legislative Director, Rep. Mark Alford, House Appropriations Committee
2. Emma Bruce, Democratic Subcommittee Staff Director, Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
3. James Gomez, Senior Legislative Assistant, Rep. Jonathan Jackson, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
4. Justina Graff, Professional Staff Member, Rep. GT Thompson, House Committee on Agriculture
5. Maeve Healy LaFleur: Chief of Staff, Rep. Grace Meng, House Appropriations Committee
6. Christopher Jennings: Legislative Director, Rep. Michael Baumgartner, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
7. Evan Johnston, Legislative Director, Rep. Chellie Pingree, House Committee on Appropriations
8. Shine Lee: Legislative Director, Rep. Young Kim, House Foreign Affairs Committee
9. Clare Plassche: Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Jared Moskowitz, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
10. Semaj Redd: Legislative Director, Rep. Trent Kelly, House Committee On Agriculture
11. Pragneya Sharma: Senior Legislative Assistant, Rep. Ami Bera, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Question 5: Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)

- Security: $1764
- Doctors: $140
- Park Entrance Fees: $150
- Expediting: $155
- Interpreter Fees: $32
- Wifi:$175
- Conference Room Fee: $190

Question 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 Aspen Institute Congressional Program is organizing and will conduct the conference and select and invite the attendees. The foundation listed in 3C, Eleanor Crook Foundation, did not

play a role in organizing or conducting the conference. The foundation provided grant funding for the program.

Question 15(2): Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:

Proximity and unique access to relevant sites and scholars for the conference's educational goals.

AGENDA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 (Overnight Travel):

10:55 AM: Participants depart Dulles Airport (IAD) on flight ET 0501

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 (Overnight in Antananarivo):

1:45 PM: Participants arrive in Antananarivo, Madagascar on flight ET 0853

1:45 – 3 PM: Participants travel to Novotel Hotel

3:00 PM: Participants check into hotel

3:30 – 5 PM: Educational Site Visit:
Royal Hill of Ambohimanga

The Royal Hill of Ambohimanga is a sacred royal location and a UNESCO World Heritage Site located northeast of Madagascar's capital city of Antananarivo. It served as a fortified political and spiritual capital for the Merina kingdom and remains a powerful symbol of Madagascar's national identity.

6:30 – 8:30 PM: Scene Setter and Working Dinner with Madagascar's Office National de Nutrition (ONN)

At dinner, senior leadership of the ONN will join the delegation. The ONN is a government agency attached to the Prime Minister's office. It coordinates multi-sectoral programs to fight malnutrition, implement national nutrition policies, track childhood stunting, and distribute emergency food assistance during crises.

Overnight at the Novotel Hotel in Antananarivo

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 (Overnight in Antananarivo):

8 – 8:45 AM: Working Breakfast Briefing with Population Services International (PSI) Madagascar

8:45 – 9:30 AM: Travel to site visit focused on health

9:30 – 11:30 AM: Educational Site Visit Focused on Health:

Integrated Primary Care Services Including TB, HIV, PMTCT, and Syphilis

For more than twenty years, the United States has been a major international force in combating HIV and preventing the transfer of the virus between mother and child during pregnancy (PMTCT). Largely through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, American assistance has saved over 26 million lives and prevented more than 8 million babies from being born with HIV. Participants will visit an integrated primary health care facility in Antananarivo where a one-stop service model provides antenatal care, early HIV diagnosis and immediate antiretroviral therapy initiation, community referrals and TB/HIV collaborative activities. The delegation will have the opportunity to engage with the health center management, midwives, community health workers and patients to learn about their experience with integrated care.

12 – 1:30 PM: Working Lunch with UNICEF and the World Food Program (WFP)

Participants will hear from UNICEF and WFP leadership about their work in Madagascar. UNICEF focuses on protecting child rights and improving the survival, health, and well-being of children and families. Their work includes treating and preventing acute malnutrition using ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) like Plumpy'Nut, targeting nutritional needs of women and adolescent girls. Complementing that work, the WFP delivers emergency food, treats malnutrition, and builds long-term climate resilience to combat severe hunger caused by recurrent droughts and cyclones in Madagascar.

1:30 – 2 PM: Travel to site visit focused on nutrition

2 – 3:30 PM: Educational Site Visit Focused on Nutrition: Tanjaka Food Production Facility

According to UNICEF, nearly one-third of all children under the age of five in sub-Saharan Africa suffer from chronic malnutrition and where half of all preventable deaths across the continent are linked to undernourishment. In Madagascar, the number is even higher where nearly 40 percent of children under five are malnourished. The family-owned Madagascar company, Tanjaka Food, established in 2009, produces ready-to-use therapeutic and preventative nutritional foods (RUTF), such as Plumpy Nut, to combat child malnutrition. Their goal is to make nutritional solutions accessible to NGOs which serve the most disadvantaged households in Madagascar and neighboring countries. Participants will tour the production facility and learn about the impact of RUTF, a nutrient-dense, high-calorie peanut paste, for treating children suffering from severe malnutrition.

6:30 – 8:30 PM: Working Dinner with Development Implementing Organizations

During dinner, participants will have the opportunity for one-on-one conversations with representatives of several development and health NGOs, including FHI 360, Population Services International, PATH, Catholic Relief Services, Global and Helen Keller International. Delegation members will learn about the work of these organizations in Madagascar, the impact their programs have achieved and challenges they face going forward.

Overnight at the Novotel Hotel in Antananarivo

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 (Overnight in Fort Dauphin):

5:45 – 6 / 6:20 – 6:45 AM: Breakfast

7:15 – 10 AM: Flights to Fort Dauphin, Madagascar

10 – 11:30 AM: Travel to Amboasary Sud

11:30 – 11:50 AM: Courtesy Meeting with District Health Authorities

11:50 AM – 1 PM: Lunch while driving to Ifotaka

1 – 2 PM: Educational Site Visit Focused on Last Mile Health and Nutritional Supply Chain for Children:
Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) clinics are specialized outpatient and inpatient treatment facilities dedicated to managing Severe Acute Malnutrition. These services operate within local basic health centers, mobile clinics, and intensive nutritional recovery centers to treat life-threatening child malnourishment driven by drought and food insecurity. Participants will visit the Ifotaka Level II Basic Health Center where they will learn about the severity of malnutrition in the southern region of Madagascar, the services provided for acute malnutrition and engage with mothers and their children who are receiving treatment at this- "last mile" UNICEF-supported facility.

2 – 2:45 PM: Educational Site Visit Focused on Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM):
World Food Program MAM Supplementation Program with Locally Produced Foods

The delegation will visit a WFP-supported site providing care for children suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition. Participants will also see a local food processing and preservation unit as part of the support for malnutrition prevention activities.

2:45 – 5:15 PM: Travel to Fort Dauphin

6:30 – 8 PM: Working Dinner with World Wildlife Fund and Missouri Botanical Garden:
The Importance of Conservation in Madagascar

Madagascar holds roughly 5% of the world's total biodiversity on just 0.4% of its landmass, with over 90% of its plant and animal species found nowhere else on Earth. Environmental degradation directly threatens local farming and coastal fisheries, which many Malagasy people rely on for basic survival. Effective conservation groups partner with local villages to provide clean water, alternative job sources, and sustainable farming so communities do not have to rely on destroying local forests to live. The delegation will be joined at dinner by representatives from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG). WWF focuses its work in Madagascar on protecting the island's unique biodiversity, improving local community well-being, and managing natural capital sustainability. MBG, based in St. Louis, has been operating for over 50 years with its largest international research and conservation program located in Madagascar to protect the island's unique plant life.

Overnight at the Ankoba Beach Hotel in Fort Dauphin

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 (Overnight in Fort Dauphin):

6:30 – 7 AM: Breakfast

7 – 9 AM: Travel to Ambovombe

9 – 9:20 AM: Courtesy Visit with Local Officials in the Androy Region

9:35 – 10:40 AM: Site Visit Focused on Education and Food Security:
Ambovombe Primary School

The delegation will visit an urban school in Ambovombe town with a student population of more than 2,000. For the past five years, Global Communities, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services and FHI 360, have managed a U.S. Department of Agriculture McGovern-Dole program in 162 schools with nearly 57,000 students throughout the southern region of Madagascar. The program aims to improve food security, reduce impacts on malnutrition, and improve literacy and primary education, thereby contributing to more self-reliant, productive societies. Since funding began five years ago, this Food for Education model has helped double student and teacher attendance at supported schools. Since beginning as a pilot activity in 2000, the McGovern-Dole program has operated in 25 African countries, reaching more than 20 million beneficiaries.

Participants will observe classroom activities and school feeding operations, meet with administrators and teachers to learn what McGovern-Dole has meant for educational achievements at the school and talk with parents and students to hear how the program has impacted families in the community.

10:50 AM – 12:45 PM: Travel to Ranopiso county

12:45 – 1:15 PM: Visit to the Health Facility in Ranopiso to observe antenatal care and intermittent preventive treatment services for malaria prevention for pregnant women

1:15 – 1:25 PM: Travel to the Village of Mahabo

1:25 – 2:10 PM: Educational Site Visit Focused on Health:
Treating and Preventing Malaria at the Rural Community Level

The delegation will travel to a site managed by the American-based health non-profit, PATH, and learn about the REACH Malaria program. Over the past quarter of a century, the world has made tremendous progress in controlling malaria. The most significant gains have been in Africa where 142 million cases of malaria and nearly 1 million deaths have been averted since 2000. But malaria remains a major health challenge on the continent where it's estimated that one person dies from the disease every minute. Participants will learn about various interventions used in the REACH Malaria program and engage community members who benefit from these services and hear how it impacts their livelihoods.

2:15 – 3 PM: Travel to Fort Dauphin

3 – 3:20 PM: Courtesy Visit at the Chef de Region

4 – 6 PM: Educational Site Visit Focused on Conservation:
Nahampoana Reserve

Madagascar has one of the highest concentrations of unique biodiversity on earth, with roughly 90% of its wildlife and plants existing nowhere else. Ecosystems safeguard rare species like lemurs, stabilize local human livelihoods dependent on natural resources, and fight global climate change. Losing these habitats means permanent extinction for thousands of endemic species. Over 70% of Madagascar's population lives in poverty and relies directly on farming, fishing, and forest yields for daily survival. Healthy ecosystems protect food and water security. The island's remaining tropical forests and coastal mangroves hold large amounts of carbon and buffer communities against extreme weather events like cyclones and severe droughts.

Participants will visit Nahampoana Reserve, located just outside of Fort Dauphin where conservationist guides will discuss the importance of protecting ecosystems and challenges the country faces in its conservation efforts.

7:30 – 9 PM: Closing Reflections Working Dinner

Overnight at the Ankoba Beach Hotel in Fort Dauphin

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 (Overnight Travel):

7 – 8 AM: Breakfast

8:45 – 11:30 AM: Flights to Antananarivo

2:50 PM: Delegation departs Antananarivo airport on flight ET 0852

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9:

8:55 AM: Participants arrive at Dulles Airport (IAD) on flight ET 0500

Clare Plassche
Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Jared Moskowitz

Dear Clare,

I would like to invite you to our bipartisan, bicameral congressional senior staff conference on ***U.S.-Africa Relations: Health, Security, and Development*** in **Madagascar from October 3-9, 2026**, including travel dates**.** Please get back to us with your interest to attend the conference **by COB Tuesday, July 7, 2026**. These conference spots fill up quickly, so please RSVP as soon as possible. This invitation does not guarantee your participation in the conference.

Using Madagascar as a backdrop, this educational conference will explore a range of issues with significant policy implications for both the United States and sub-Saharan Africa. Through a combination of field visits to nutrition, health, education, conservation, and other program sites, as well as expert-led discussions, participants will examine the security, economic, and development challenges facing the continent. Site visits and conversations will explore how changes to U.S. policies and programs over the past 18 months have affected American engagement on issues of mutual interest and concern. Discussions will address key topics across the continent, including public health; malnutrition, particularly among children and mothers; HIV and malaria; U.S. national security and the growing influence of China and Russia; and biodiversity and conservation. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage with Malagasy communities and reflect on the evolving future of U.S.-Africa relations.

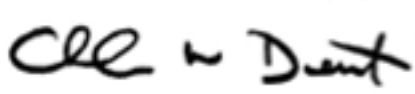
Conference attendance is by invitation only. No outside observers, no lobbyists, and no media are allowed to participate. All conference sessions and site visits are off-the-record. No foreign governments are accepted to fund the Aspen Institute Congressional Program. As required by the Senate and House 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 639 members of Congress have participated in our 167 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
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