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Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building.**

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Travel date(s): August 12-20, 2017

Name of accompanying family member (if any): N/A

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
☐ Good Faith Estimate ☒ Actual Amount	$2,336.51	$1,619	$1,105.10	$2,673.50

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
☐ Good Faith Estimate ☐ Actual Amount				

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. *See* Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): See ininerary attached

9/18/17 (Date)

William Bode (*Printed name of traveler*)

(*Signature of traveler*)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

9/18/17 (Date)

Thom Tillis (*Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer*)

(Revised 1/3/11)

Form RE-2

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American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
August 12-20, 2017

FINAL ITINERARY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

4:59	United #4254 departs Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
6:24 PM	United #4254 arrives at Newark Liberty International Airport
10:45 PM Saturday - 4:20 PM Sunday	United #90 departs Newark Liberty International Airport

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

4:20 - 7:00 PM	Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport Transfer to Jerusalem
7:00 - 7:30 PM	Check into the Inbal Hotel
7:30 PM	Depart for dinner
7:45 - 8:15 PM	*Setting the Stage* Welcome and Orientation - at La Guta
8:15 - 9:30 PM	*The Pulse of Israel Today* Dinner with Matti Friedman Author and Journalist - at La Guta
9:45 - 10:15 PM	*Welcome to Jerusalem* Understanding Jerusalem's Historic Basin
10:30 PM	Overnight at the Inbal Hotel

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

7:45 AM	Breakfast is served

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8:00 - 9:00 AM	*Israeli Politics Primer* Breakfast with Professor Reuven Hazan Political Science Department, Hebrew University - at the Inbal hotel
9:15 AM	Depart hotel
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	*Strategic Overview of Jerusalem, Part I : The Old City and the Holy Basin* • Church of the Holy Sepulcher • Via Dolorosa • Southern Wall Excavations • Western Wall • City of David
12:30 PM	Depart
1:00 - 2:30 PM	*Regional Threats Overview and the Palestinian Street* Lunch with • Amos Harel, Military Affairs Correpsondent, *Ha'aretz* • Avi Issacharoff, Arab Affairs Correspondent, *The Times of Israel* - at Caffit Botanical Gardens
2:45 PM	Depart for the Knesset
3:00 PM	Security check
3:30 - 4:30 PM	*Israeli Democracy in Action* Meetings with Members of Knesset • The Honorable Merav Ben Ari, Kulana Party • The Honorable Ofer Shelah, Yesh Atid Party - at the Knesset
4:45 PM	Depart
5:00 – 6:00 PM	*Strategic Overview of Jerusalem* *Part II: Jerusalem's Outlying Neighborhoods and the Security Barrier*
6:00 – 6:30 PM	Return to hotel
7:45 PM	Depart for dinner

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8:00 - 9:45 PM	*Colleague to Colleague* Dinner with Knesset Staffers from various political parties • Michaela Cohen, Spokesperson to the Honorable Moshe Kahlon, Kulanu Party • Tal Harris, Spokesman to the Honorable Amir Peretz, • Zionist Union Party • Ben Zilberberg; Advisor to the Honorable Amir Ohana, Likud Party • Yair Zivan, Advisor to the Honorable Yair Lapid, Yesh Atid Party - at Touro
9:45 PM	Overnight at the Inbal Hotel

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

7:45 AM	Breakfast on your own in the main dining room Luggage in the lobby Check out
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Regional Strategic Briefing: Syria and Iraq Briefing with Dr. Jonathan Spyer Director, Rubin Center, Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya -at the Inbal hotel
9:15 AM	Depart the hotel
9:45 AM – 12:00 PM	*The Meaning of the Holocaust in the Israeli Psyche* Visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum
12:00 PM	Depart
12:30 – 2:15 PM	*Palestinian Perspective* Lunch with Nidal Foqaha Director General, Palestinian Peace Coalition/Geneva Initiative - at the American Colony hotel
2:15 PM	Depart
2:45 - 4:00 PM	*A View from the Prime Minister's Office* Meeting with David Keyes Spokesperson to the Prime Minster - at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

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4:00-5:15 PM	Travel to Tel Aviv En route briefing: *Let There Be Water: Israel Solves its Water Crisis*
5:15 PM	Check into Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel
7:30 PM	Depart for dinner
8:00 – 10:00 PM	Israel's Work at Home and Abroad: From Start Up to Tikkun Olam Dinner with: • Gidon Bromberg, EcoPeace • Eytan Buchman, Freightos • Dr. Sion Houri, Save A Child's Heart • Sivan Ya'ari, Innovation Africa - at Deca
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

7:45 AM	Breakfast is served -at the Sheraton Tel Aviv
8:00 – 9:15 AM	Israel's Missile Defense Breakfast with Col. Yaniv Rotem, Head of Lower Tier, Israel Missile Defense Organization -at the Sheraton Tel Aviv
9:15 AM	Depart for southern Israel
10:30-11:15 AM	*Life under Rocket Fire, Part I* *Briefings on Israel's Border with the Gaza Strip* - at Kibbutz Nir Am
11:15 AM	Depart
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	*Life Under Rocket Fire, Part II* *Meeting with Oshrit Sabag, local resident* - at Kibbutz Nahal Oz
12:30 PM	Depart

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1:00 – 2:00 PM	Service in the IDF Todat Lunch with Israeli Soldiers -at Leonardo, Ashkelon
2:00 PM	Depart
2:30 – 3:00 PM	*U.S.-Israel Cooperation: Iron Dome* IDF Briefing at Iron Dome Battery - at Ashkelon
3:00 PM	Depart
4:15 PM - 5:15 PM	*Arab-Israeli Perspective* Meeting with Mohammed Darawshe, Director of Planning, Equality, and Shared Living, Givat Haviva Educational Institute - at the Sheraton Tel Aviv hotel
5:15 PM	Meeting ends
7:15PM	Depart for dinner
7:45 – 9:30 PM	*Israel's Approach to Social Issues* Dinner with • Tziona Koenig-Yair, Immediate Past National Commissioner, Equal Employment Opportunities Commission • Rabbi Dov Lipman, Director of Public Diplomacy, World Zionist Organization • Pnina Radai, Resource Development Manager, Olim Beyahad • Dan Slyper, LGBT Caucus, Yesh Atid Party - at Spoons
9:30 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

7:30 AM	Luggage in the lobby Check out
7:45 AM	Breakfast is served

8:00 - 9:15 AM	*Why a Jewish State?* Breakfast with Dr. Einat Wilf Senior Fellow, Jewish People Policy Institute - at the Sheraton Tel Aviv hotel
9:15 AM	Depart for Israel's North
10:15 - 10:45 AM	*Israel's Narrow Waistline* Briefing at Alfei Menashe
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Depart En route briefings: • *The Jezreel Valley:* *The Strategic Land Bridge connecting Asia and Africa* • *Upper Galilee: Potential for Development*
12:15 - 1:15 PM	Lunch - at Dona Rosa, Ein Hod
1:15 PM	Depart
2:45 - 4:00 PM	*Treating Syria's Wounded* Visit to Ziv Medical Center
4:00 PM	Depart
4:45 - 5:30 PM	*Hizballah Next Door* Strategic briefing on the border with Lebanon With Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi, Northern Border Expert - at Mt. Adir
5:30 PM	Depart
6:30 PM	Check into the Galei Kineret Hotel
8:00 PM	Depart for dinner
8:15 - 10:00 PM	*Northern Exposure: Life on the Border with Lebanon and Syria* Dinner and discussion - at Decks
10:00 PM	Overnight at the Galei Kineret Hotel

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

7:30 AM	Breakfast on own Luggage in the lobby Check out
8:30 AM	Depart
9:00 - 11:00 AM	*Historical, Religious and Geopolitical Significance of the Sea of Galilee* Visit to: • Mount of Beatitudes • Church of the Primacy of Saint Peter • Capernaum
11:00 AM	Visits ends, depart, travel to the Golan Heights
12:00 - 1:00 PM	*The Tragedy in Syria* Strategic survey of the Israeli-Syrian border With Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman - at Kibbutz Ein Zivan
1:00 PM	Depart
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Lunch - at Habokrim
2:15 - 5:30 PM	Depart for Jerusalem Travel via the Jordan Valley En route briefings: • *Israel's Relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan* • *Jordan's Syrian Refugee Crisis*
5:30 PM	Check into the Inbal Hotel
7:15 PM	Depart
7:45 - 9:00 PM	*Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem* Dinner with Rabbi Susan Silverman and Yossi Abramowitz - at their home in Jerusalem
9:00 PM	Overnight at the Inbal Hotel

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

7:30 AM	Breakfast on own - at the hotel
8:00 – 9:30 AM	Depart En route briefing: *Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor: Strategic Concerns*
9:30 – 11:45 AM	*History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire* Visit to Masada National Archeological Site
11:45 AM	Depart
12:00 – 1:30 PM	*Israel's Experience in Fighting the Encroachment of Desertification* Visit to the Dead Sea and lunch - at Herods
1:30 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
3:00 PM	Return to hotel Prepare for departure Check out
5:30 PM	Depart
6:30 - 8:15 PM	*The U.S.-Israel Relationship: Bringing it All Together* Closing dinner - at Ester's
8:15 PM	Depart for Ben Gurion Airport
11:10 PM Saturday - 4:15 AM Sunday	United #91 departs Ben Gurion Airport

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

4:15 AM	United #91 arrives at Newark Liberty International Airport
6:00 AM	United #4931 departs Newark Liberty International Airport
7:33 AM	United #4931 arrives Washington Dulles International Airport

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Date/Time Stamp:

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: William Bode

Employing Office/Committee: Senator Thom Tillis

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Travel date(s): August 12-20, 2017

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): Israel

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

As a Legislative Aide for Armed Services and Foreign Affairs, a major part of my continuing education to better serve the Senator involves traveling to relevent locations around the world and meeting with key leaders and government counterparts. A professional and cultural trip to Israel fulfils these objectives.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): N/A

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

7/12/2017
(Date)

BBB
(Signature of Employee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Senator Thom Tillis *(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)* hereby authorize William Bode *(Print Traveler's Name)*

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. *(signify "yes" by checking box)* ☐

7/12/2017
(Date)

Thom Tillis
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

(Revised 10/19/15) Form RE-1

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PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

---

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

2. Description of the trip: Please see attached

3. Dates of travel: August 12-20, 2017

4. Place of travel: Israel

5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Please see attached

6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:

   ☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

   – OR –

   ☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) *(see question 9)*.

7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

   – AND –

   ☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

8. I *certify* that:

   ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.

   – AND –

   ☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**
I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

– OR –

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10*).

– OR –

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**
If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this trip.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

Please see attached.

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

Please see attached.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
☒ Good Faith estimate ☐ Actual Amounts	$2,319.58	$1,344	$966	$2,456.14 Breakdown attached

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

b) The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

The trip will take place in Israel in order to educate participants about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Inbal Jerusalem, Sheraton Tel Aviv, Nof Ginosar Tiberias

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

Location and affordability

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

Please see attached

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Participants will fly coach class on a commercial airline.

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

n/a

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (You must include the completed signature block below for each travel sponsor.):

Signature of Travel Sponsor: _____

Name and Title: Richard Fishman, Executive Director

Name of Organization: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington DC 20001

Telephone Number: (202) 639-5233

Fax Number: n/a

E-mail Address: rfishman@aiefdn.org

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American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
August 12-20

Senate Invitees

1. Toni-Marie Higgins, Legislative Director, Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)
2. Katie Waldman, Press Secretary, Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)
3. Matthew Jensen, Deputy Legislative Director, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
4. Blake Souter, Defense and Foreign Policy Analyst, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)
5. Jared Jones, Military Legislative Assistant, Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)
6. William Bode, Legislative Correspondent, Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)

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American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Congressional Staff
August 12-20, 2017

Addendum

2. Description of the Trip
This seminar, which will be on the ground in Israel for seven days, is specifically designed to explore foreign policy and defense issues related to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Some of the key issues to be addressed include: the status of Iranian compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and Iran's continued malign regional activities; the impact of Syrian civil war along Israel's northern border; the internal political situations of both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the status of the peace process; and the expanded cooperation between the U.S. and Israel in fighting terrorism and proliferation.

The seminar will consist of discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, Members of the Knesset, Palestinian representatives and U.S. officials, as well as site surveys of the northern border with Lebanon and Syria, the southern border with the Gaza Strip, and the security fence. The seminar also aims to provide the political, historic, and religious context to the current conflicts and issues facing Israel and the region. It will explore the connection the three monotheistic religions have with the land and the influence this connection has on today's struggles. In addition to formal meetings and briefings, the trip provides experiential opportunities to help better understand the geographical complications, the security implications, and the historic root causes of the current conflicts.

14/15. Sponsor Information
Founded in 1990, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) is the charitable organization affiliated with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby. The Foundation's fundamental purpose is to maintain and further the relationship between the U.S. and Israel. AIEF works to inform the public about Israel and the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship, to expand public awareness about issues affecting the Middle East, and to encourage participation in public affairs, especially by young people. AIEF grants support innovative and award-winning programming that educates a wide array of participants, including college students, members of Congress and their staff, and political professionals.

AIEF funds Israel Seminars for members of Congress, Capitol Hill staffers, students, political consultants, as well as religiously motivated pro-Israel Christian, Latino and African American leaders. These trips to Israel are among the most critical programs AIEF supports on behalf of the U.S.-Israel relationship. These educational seminars allow policy makers to understand the complex historical, religious and geographic context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Participants have the opportunity to meet with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. government officials, Palestinian Authority officials and leading academics and journalists. For many of the participants, who make important decisions impacting Israel and the Middle East, these trips are their first, and sometimes, only exposure to the country.

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16. Other Expenses

Security: $809.52 per person
-AIEF considers the security of its trip participants as its highest priority. A security team accompanies all participants throughout the trip.

Speaker Fees: $523.81 per person
-Honoraria for guest speakers

Travel Agency Commission: $284 per person (single occupancy)
-AIEF pays an upcharge of 21% per room per night, split between our U.S. and Israeli travel vendors

Tour Guide: $214.29 per person
-As a detailed historical understanding is crucial to maximizing the educational aspect of the trip, a licensed tour guide accompanies the group throughout the trip.

Hotels for contract staff (tour guide, bus driver, security guards): $157.14 per person

Meals for contract staff and speakers: $152.38 per person

Room Rentals: $142.86 per person
-The cost of renting rooms at hotels and restaurants for meetings and meals with speakers.

Transportation for individualized tour of Syrian/Israel border: $47.62

Entrance Fees: $42.86 per person
-Several sites require an entrance fee, including the southern Western Wall excavations and the holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.

Transportation for Contract Guests and Speakers: $28.57

Other: $23.81 per person
-Briefing materials, miscellaneous

Photography: $23.81 per person
-On each trip we take a group photo with a professional photographer

Tips: 5.48 per person
-It is customary to tip the driver and tour guide that accompany trip participants.

21. Per Diem

The expenses for lodging and meals are within the international per diems for Israel. The estimate for meal expenses includes the cost for meals, snacks, and water. It does not include alcohol, as we do not pay for alcohol per Senate ethics rules.

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American Israel Education Foundation
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
August 12-20, 2017

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

4:59 PM - 6:24 PM	Depart Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
6:24 PM - 10:45 PM	Arrive at Newark Liberty International Airport
10:45 PM Saturday - 4:20 PM Sunday	Depart Newark Liberty International Airport

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

4:20 PM - 7:00 PM	Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Check into the Inbal Hotel
7:30 PM	Depart for dinner
7:45 PM - 8:15 PM	*Setting the Stage* Welcome and Orientation - at Touro
8:15 PM - 9:45 PM	*State of the Nation* Dinner with Matti Friedman Author and Journalist - at Touro

Matti Friedman
The opening dinner features Matti Freidman, a renowned reporter with a career that has taken him from Lebanon to Morocco, Cairo, Moscow and Washington, D.C., and to conflicts in Israel in the Caucasus. Mr. Friedman is a dynamic and insightful speaker who will provide the group an illuminating synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of the Israeli citizens.

9:45 PM - 10:30 PM	*Welcome to Jerusalem* Understanding Jerusalem's Historic Basin

Jerusalem
Throughout its 4,000 year history, the city of Jerusalem has changed hands many times. As home to the world's three great monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — Jerusalem is probably the most disputed city in history. Today, the status of Jerusalem remains the most contentious issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jerusalem has been at the heart of all recent Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, from the Oslo Accords to the Camp David Summit to the Taba negotiations, and in the most recent talks under

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the auspices of the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. To understand the current political issues, it is critical to understand Jerusalem's history and the role it has played in shaping the Middle East. This seminar will include site visits to various locations in and around Jerusalem to give participants a first-hand look at the historic significance of the city, as well as its geographic layout.

10:30 PM	Overnight at the Inbal Hotel

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

7:45 AM	Breakfast is served
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	*Israeli Politics Primer* Breakfast with Professor Reuven Hazan Political Science Department, Hebrew University - at the hotel

Professor Reuven Hazan
It is critical for trip participants to have an understanding of the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Hazan explains how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

9:00 AM	Session concludes
9:15 AM	Depart hotel
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	*Strategic Overview of Jerusalem* *Part I : The Old City and the Holy Basin* • Church of the Holy Sepulcher • Via Dolorosa • Southern Wall Excavations Western Wall • City of David

Old City of Jerusalem & the Holy Basin
The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. During the Camp David II talks, the Palestinians and Israelis differed on the Jerusalem question, namely the Old City, the status of Arab neighborhoods just outside the Old City, and religious sites such as the Temple Mount.

The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, which is believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East.

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The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

The Western Wall

The Western Wall, a remnant of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, is Judaism's holiest site and the heart of the Jewish people's 3,000-year connection to the Land of Israel.

King David established Jerusalem as the capital of ancient Israel circa 1,000 B.C.E., and his son Solomon built the First Jewish Temple on what is known today as the Temple Mount. This Temple became the focal point of ancient Judaism, drawing religious pilgrims from throughout the region. There are more than 850 references to Jerusalem in the Hebrew Bible and innumerable references to the city throughout more than 2,000 years of post-biblical literature.

Even after the destruction of the Second Jewish Temple by the Roman Empire in 70 C.E., Jews maintained a continuous presence in Jerusalem. Jerusalem has been central to the Jewish people through daily prayer and ritual expressing the aspiration to return there. For 2,000 years, Jews prayed for the rebuilding of the Holy City, and to this day, Jews throughout the world face Jerusalem and pray to return to this holy place. The centuries-old Jewish dream of reestablishing Jerusalem as the Jewish capital was partially realized in 1948, when the western half of the city became the capital of the new State of Israel. However, the armistice agreement following Israel's War of Independence left Jerusalem divided in half by the "Green Line" between Israel and Jordan.

Between 1949 and 1967, Jordan controlled the parts of Jerusalem east of the Green Line, severely limiting access to Jews from Judaism's holiest sites, and completely denying access for Israeli Jews to the Old City or the Western Wall, a key remnant of the Second Temple. Furthermore, Christians living in Israel were only allowed to visit churches and holy sites in eastern Jerusalem once a year. Thousands of Jews, some of whose families had been living there for centuries, were expelled from eastern Jerusalem. During the period of Jordanian occupation of eastern Jerusalem, synagogues were destroyed and Jewish burial grounds were desecrated.

When Israel gained control of eastern Jerusalem after the Six-Day War, the Jewish state immediately abolished Jordanian restrictions on access to the city, allowing all Jews, Christians and Muslims to worship at their holy places. Israel later incorporated the eastern half of the city and declared unified Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel.

The City of David

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has consumed an enormous amount of time and manpower of members of consecutive American Administrations as well as members of Congress. One of the most intractable issues in the conflict has been the question of the future of Jerusalem. Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of this conflict.

The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sides in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years.

At the same time, much of the site is located in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts

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being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open up more areas for excavations. Additionally, Palestinian leadership has denied in their official statements the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

12:30 PM	Depart
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	*The History of Zionism* Lunch with Dr. Einat Wilf Senior Fellow, Jewish People Policy Institute - at Caffit
2:30 PM	Depart for the Knesset
3:00 PM	Security check
3:30 PM - 4:45 PM	*Israeli Democracy in Action* Meetings with Members of Knesset • The Honorable Sharren Haskel, Likud Party • The Honorable Dr. Nachman Shai, Zionist Union Party - at the Knesset
4:45 PM	Depart
5:00 PM - 5:45 PM	*Strategic Overview of Jerusalem* *Part II: Jerusalem's Outlying Neighborhoods and the Security Barrier*

Post-1967 Neighborhoods

When Jerusalem was reunified in 1967, following 19 years of division, the State of Israel extended the city's boundaries to include the strategic hills surrounding Jerusalem. These hills served as launching pads between 1948 and 1967 for sniper and mortar attacks on Israeli parts of the city by the Jordanian Army. Since 1967, these hills have become vibrant neighborhoods, fully integrated into the fabric of Jerusalem. It is vital for those discussing the issue of Jerusalem to understand these neighborhoods' strategic importance and their relationship to the areas in the immediate vicinity.

Security Barrier

After scores of suicide bombings and daily terrorist attacks against its civilians launched following the breakdown of the Camp David II talks, Israel began construction of a security barrier near the pre-1967 "Green Line" between Israel and the West Bank to prevent Palestinian terrorists from infiltrating into Israeli population centers. Since its construction began, the number of attacks declined by more than 90% and the number of Israelis murdered and wounded decreased by more than 70% and 85%, respectively. The barrier is approximately 455 miles long. To Israel, the security barrier serves as a necessary obstacle to protect its people. To the Palestinians and others in the world, the barrier represents a physical and symbolic divide.

This seminar will survey the security barrier at different points along its route to see first-hand the barrier's construction, the operation of crossing points in and out of Palestinian areas, and the technology that facilitates its operation. Both en route to the barrier and at the barrier itself, the group will explore the competing arguments raised by the Israelis, Palestinians and the international community.

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5:45 PM	Return to hotel
7:45 PM	Depart for dinner
8:00 PM - 9:45 PM	*Colleague to Colleague: Knesset Staffers* Dinner with Knesset Staffers from various political parties Uri Perednick, Likud • Michaela Cohen, Kulanu • Yair Zivan, Yesh Atid • Shaked Hasson, Zionist Union - at La Guta
9:45 PM	Overnight at the Inbal Hotel

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

7:30 AM	Breakfast on your own in the main dining room Luggage in the lobby Check out
8:15 AM	Depart the hotel
8:45 AM - 11:00 AM	*The Meaning of the Holocaust in the Israeli Psyche* Visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

Yad Vashem

One cannot understand Israel's position on Iran's nuclear program without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction.

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, was established in 1953 by an act of the Israeli Knesset. Since its inception, Yad Vashem has been entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and imparting the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come through its archives, library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations. Located on Har Hazikaron (the Mount of Remembrance) in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a sprawling complex of museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, sculptures, and memorials.

Every foreign leader that travels to Israel visits Yad Vashem. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the group through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

11:00 AM	Depart

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11:30 AM - 12:45 PM *A Model for Coexistence*
Visit to Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education

Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education
The mission of Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel is to create a strong, inclusive, shared society in Israel through a network of Jewish-Arab integrated bilingual schools and organized communities. A recipient of USAID, Hand in Hand currently operates 5 schools throughout Israel attended by 1100 students, with a goal of 15 schools nation-wide over the next decade. The Max Rayne Hand in Hand School in Jerusalem is the first school opened by Hand in Hand, as well as its largest. The visit to the Yad b'Yad school in Jerusalem will be an opportunity to explore Israel's education system, prevailing divisions within Israeli society, the challenges of teaching a fractured student body with often dueling historical narratives and how the Hand in Hand model seeks to shape prospects for co-existence both today, and for those who will take the mantle in the future.

12:45 PM Depart

1:15 PM - 3:00 PM *A View from the Palestinian Authoirty*
Lunch with Nidal Foqaha
Director General, Palestinian Peace Coalition/Geneva Initiative
- at the American Colony hotel

3:00 PM Depart

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM *A View from the Prime Minister's Office*
Meeting with David Keyes
Spokesperson to the Prime Minster
- at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Travel to Tel Aviv

En route briefing:
Let There Be Water: Israel Solves its Water Crisis

Let There Be Water: Israel Solves its Water Crisis
In an era of booming populations, shrinking resources and environmental degradation, Israel leads the world in critical fields such as seawater desalination. As nations struggle to make the best use of their resources, Israel's cutting-edge technologies promise to improve the health and living standards of hundreds of millions across the globe, while making industry more efficient and minimizing the environmental impact of human activities.

Israel operates two of the world's largest desalination plants, the Hadera and Sorek plant. Israel is both 60 percent desert and one of the world's most densely populated countries, so desalination has become a necessity of life. By 2016 it is expected that up to 50 percent of Israel's water supply will be provided by desalination plants.

Israel's success with desalinization has attracted the attention of many developing countries. For one, China has selected an Israeli company to build China's largest desalination plant. The same Israeli company is also working to build the biggest desalinization plant in India. Israeli companies worked with San Diego

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County in California to develop the largest desalinization plant in the U.S. This came at a critical time when the governor of California has declared the first ever state-wide mandatory reductions on water as a result of one of the most severe droughts in California's history.

6:00 PM	Check into Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel
7:45 PM	Depart for dinner
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM	*Regional Threats Overview and the Palestinian Street* Dinner with: • Avi Issacharoff Arab Affairs Correspondent, Times of Israel • Amos Harel, Military Affairs Correspondent, Ha'aretz - at Lumina
9:30 PM	Overnight at the Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

7:15 AM	Breakfast on own at the hotel
8:15 AM	Depart for southern Israel
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	*Life under Rocket Fire* *Part I: Briefings on Israel's Border with the Gaza Strip* - at Kibbutz Nir Am
10:00 AM	Depart
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	*Life Under Rocket Fire* *Part II: Meeting with Oshrit Sabag, local resident* - at Kibbutz Nahal Oz

Life Under Rocket Fire

Since 2001, Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip have been living under the threat of rocket fire. Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the volume, range and accuracy of the rockets has only increased. The summer of 2014 witnessed Operation Protective Edge, which returned the issue of rocket fire from Gaza to international headlines. At Kibbutz Nir Am, participants will be able to see the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, to better comprehend the landscape of the region, as well as the unique challenges faced by this area. The visit to Kibbutz Nal Oz and meeting with a local resident will be an opportunity to better understand the reality of living just kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, to learn how almost 15 years of rocket fire has shaped those living in the communities most affected, to discuss the advent of Hamas "terror tunnels" into Israel's border towns and how communities have sought to cope with the threat on their doorstep, both physically and psychologically.

11:30 AM	Depart

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12:15 AM - 12:45 PM *U.S.-Israel Cooperation: Iron Dome*
IDF Briefing at Iron Dome Battery
- at Ashkelon

The Iron Dome
The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) typically honors our request to visit an Iron Dome battery, the joint U.S.-Israel funded rocket defense program. The military typically approves any visit to an Iron Dome location the week before the trip due to the constantly shifting security situation on the ground. A visit to an Iron Dome battery includes meeting with the soldiers and the commanding officer. For security reasons, we do not receive the names of the IDF soldiers meeting with the group.

12:45 PM Depart

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM Lunch is served
- at Space

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM *Israel's Missile Defense*
Lunch with Ari Sacher
Iron Dome Systems Project Manager, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems
- at Space

3:00 PM Depart

4:00 PM - 5:15 PM *Arab-Israeli Perspective*
Meeting with:
- Mohammed Darawshe, Co-Executive Director, Givat Haviva Institute
- Ghaida Rinawi-Zoabi, General Director, Injaz Center for Professional Arab Local Governance

- at the hotel

5:15 PM Meeting ends

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM *Tikkun Olam: Israel's Global Footprint*
- Sivan Borowich-Ya'ari, Founder and CEO, Innovation: Africa
- Ariel Beeri, CEO, Mobile ODT

- at Deca

Israel's Global Footprint
Israel's Global Footprint will be a dinner discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad. The group will be meeting with innovators that are global leaders in water conservation, fighting against HIV/AIDS through medical innovation, and bringing Israeli technology and medicine to third world countries.

10:00 PM Overnight at Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

7:30 AM	Luggage in the lobby Check out
7:45 AM	Breakfast is served
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM	*Regional Strategic Briefing: Syria and Iraq* Breakfast with Dr. Jonathan Spyer Director, Rubin Center at Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya - at the hotel
9:15 AM	Depart for northern Israel
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM	*Israel's Narrow Waistline* Briefing at Alfei Menashe

Alfei Menashe
Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel's narrow waistline.

The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of Hadera the southern point. The Hadera-Gadera rectangle is home to over 50 percent of Israel's population, as well as civilian infrastructure. The area is also home to Israel's "Silicon Valley," as well as Ben Gurion international airport.

The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel's narrow waistline.

10:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Depart En route briefings: • *The Jezreel Valley: The Strategic Land Bridge connecting Asia and Africa* • *Upper Galilee: Potential for Development*

The Jezreel Valley
Our tour guide will spend an hour during the drive from Israel's center to the north to provide the delegation a briefing on the Jezreel Valley and the Upper Galilee and the challenges facing these regions of the country.

For thousands of years, the Jezreel Valley served as a land bridge linking Africa, Asia and Europe, and serving as a thoroughfare for ancient caravans and, more frequently, armies. In modern times, during World War I, for example, the British and Turkish forces fought a number of pitched battles in the valley. In 1948, following Israel's establishment, the combined forces of Iraq and Jordan attempted unsuccessfully to capture the valley in order to split the just-born Israel into two parts. In the early 20th century, after decades of neglect, Jewish pioneers drained the swamps in the valley, transforming this region into Israel's "breadbasket" known for wheat, cotton, sunflowers and fish ponds. The Jezreel Valley is also home to historical and biblical sites including Tel Megiddo and Nazareth.

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Today it is an important symbol of Israel's complex and diverse political reality. The Jezreel Valley, together with the areas of the Lower and Upper Galilee, is home to the majority of Israel's Arab citizens. A visit to this area provides an opportunity to discuss and learn about Israel's Arab citizens – 20 percent of the population – each of which has full democratic, social and welfare rights, the right to vote and serve in the Knesset, and the opportunity to serve on Israel's Supreme Court. These issues are not widely known and this segment gives trip participants the opportunity to understand Israel's relationship with its largest minority group.

Upper Galilee

The Upper Galilee is home to the largest variety of ethnic communities in Israel including Druze, Circassian, Arab Muslim and Arab Christian villages. The Galilee is also home to ancient Jewish and Christian holy sites that provide additional historical and political context to regional tensions. Just as in the case of the Jezreel Valley, the area illustrates the role of minorities in Israel.

At the same time, the Upper Galilee is home to some of the most prominent industrial hubs. Best known among them is the Tefen Industrial area, home to numerous enterprises established by the region's residents – Jewish and Arab. In 2006, Upper Galilee's ISCAR Metal Working Company was purchased for $5 billion by Warren Buffet's conglomerate holding company. Since then, a number of American investors have become partners in some of the region's hi-tech and bio-tech companies.

While time does not permit for sites visits, a drive through the region allows for expanding on the importance of the area in the context of the U.S.–Israel relationship.

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch - in Tzfat
1:30 PM	Depart
2:45 PM - 4:00 PM	*Treating Syria's Wounded* Visit to Ziv Medical Center

The Ziv Medical Center

The Ziv Medical Center is situated in the heart of Israel's rural northern landscape and provides health care services and treatment for the north's ethnically and religiously diverse population. Since February 2013, Israel has taken in Syrians wounded in the course of the civil war currently being waged in that country. Many are treated at a field hospital on the border, where soldiers and paramedics of the IDF on the Israeli Golan Heights give them initial first aid and life- saving care. The Syrian wounded then either return to Syria, or are taken to an Israeli hospital to receive further treatment. Ziv Medical Center is one such hospital, and has treated nearly five hundred victims of the Syrian conflict. At Ziv, the Syrian wounded, including children, civilians and militants alike, are provided with the best possible care from Israeli physicians using state of the art medical equipment. Although Israel and Syria have been in a state of war for decades, the Israeli doctors and staff at Ziv provide humanitarian aid for the wounded without regard for the patients' political or military affiliation. These efforts have been supported by The Israeli Health Department, which has spent well over 5 million dollars treating the wounded.

4:00 PM - Depart

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4:45 PM - 5:30 PM	*Israel's Northern Border* *Part I: Briefing on the border with Lebanon* With Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi, Northern Border Expert - at Mt. Adir
5:30 PM	Depart
6:30 PM	Check into the Galei Kineret Hotel
8:00 PM	Depart for dinner
8:15 PM - 10:00 PM	*Northern Exposure: Israeli Life on the border with Lebanon and Syria* Dinner and discussion - at Decks

Dinner and Discussion
We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to discuss the topics and perspectives presented to them assists them in their ability to more fully understand the complexities Israel faces.

10:00 PM	Overnight at Galei Kineret Hotel

<u>FRIDAY, AUGUST 18</u>

7:30 AM	Breakfast on own Luggage in the lobby Check out
8:30 AM	Depart
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	*Historical, Religious and Geopolitical Significance of the Sea of Galilee* Visit to: • Mount of Beatitudes • Church of the Primacy of Saint Peter • Capernaum

Christian Sites at the Sea of Galilee
As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the group will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a visit to and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum and St. Peter's Church.

11:00 AM	Visits ends, depart, travel to the Golan Heights

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12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	*Israel's Northern Border* *Part II: Briefing on the border with Syria* With Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman - at Ein Zivan
1:00 PM	Depart
1:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Lunch Joined by IDF soldiers serving in a variety of units - at Habokrim
2:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Depart for Jerusalem Travel via the Jordan Valley En route briefings: • *Israel's Relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan* • *Jordan's Syrian Refugee Crisis*

Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis
The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel's eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.

In recent years, the two countries have worked together to combat the increased threat from terrorism by coordinating their security efforts and preventing infiltrations across their shared border. Today, Jordan hosts over 1.4 million Syrian refugees fleeing civil war. Following our discussion with Israeli soldiers patrolling the Syrian border, our guide will address how the influx of Syrian refugees and the threats in the region impact Jordan internally; as well as relations and further potential for strategic partnership between Jordan, the United States, and Israel.

5:30 PM	Check into the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel
7:15 PM	Depart
7:45 PM - 9:00 PM	*Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem* Traditional Sabbath dinner with Rabbi Susan Silverman and Yossi Abramowitz - at their home in Jerusalem
9:00 PM	Overnight at the Inbal Hotel

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

8:00 AM	Breakfast on own - at the hotel, main dining room

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8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Depart

En route briefing:
Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor: Strategic Concerns

Jericho Road and the E-1 Corridor
On the drive from Jerusalem to Masada, the group will travel on the highway known as the "Jericho Road" is the strategic importance of the area east of Jerusalem. In 1948 and in 1967, the Jordanian army attacked Jerusalem from the east – the 1948 attack resulted in the city's division that lasted until 1967. Since then Israel has established the City of Ma'ale Adumim east of Jerusalem, today home to some 40,000 residents. To the Palestinians, however, Ma'ale Adumim is the largest settlement on the West Bank. When Israel attempted to expand Ma'ale Adumim's boundary, into an area known as "E-1," the U.S. State Department stepped in and asked that no construction take place there. The issue needs to be examined with those discussing the future of Jerusalem in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

10:00 AM *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*
Visit to Masada National Archeological Site

Masada
The Sabbath in Israel begins Friday afternoon and concludes on Saturday evening. During the Sabbath, virtually everything in the country is closed including all government offices, businesses, newspapers etc. Therefore, for years, we have used Saturdays to expose our congressional members and staff delegations to some of the key historical and cultural sites in Israel such as Masada. Masada, which was excavated in the 1960s, is considered one of the most important archeological sites in Israel, indeed in the whole world.

Masada was the site of the last stand of the Jews in Israel after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 A.D. A group of Jewish zealots fled to the Judean Desert and lived in the former mountaintop fortress of King Herod known as Masada for two years resisting the onslaught of the most powerful army in the world. Determined to break the resistance, the Romans finally scaled the mountain to capture and enslave the Jewish rebels. However, when they finally arrived, they found that all the men, women and children had killed themselves as a last act of defiance. They refused to give in to the Romans and become their slaves.

The ancient story of Masada has important contemporary relevance for the modern State of Israel. "Masada shall never fall again" has become the watchword of the country which has faced existential threats since its founding in 1948. Israel's elite military units, for example, are sworn in on top of Masada in a symbolic act of defiance against Israel's contemporary enemies. These soldiers along with the thousands of Israeli school children who visit Masada each year learn the lesson that Israel should never become so weak again that it would ever face national suicide as an option.

We will spend approximately two hours atop of Masada with a professional guide. The time at Masada with the guide is focused on three areas: 1. viewing the magnificent ancient excavations; 2. learning the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; 3. discussing the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

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During our trip to the Negev, we will also visit the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth and a major source of minerals for both Israel and Jordan.

12:15 PM	Depart
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	*Israel's Experience in Fighting the Encroachment of Desertification* Visit to the Dead Sea and lunch - at Herods

Dead Sea Region
During our drive to and from the Dead Sea area, as well as during our visit to the Dead Sea, our tour guide will discuss a variety of issues integral to understanding the region, the country, and relations with both the Palestinians and Jordanians.

It is important to note that the region is mostly desert. For decades, Israel has been challenging this arid area and developing its agricultural potential. While the Middle East is suffering from water shortages, Israel, through modern technology and water conservation policies, including the recycling of over 80 percent of water used for domestic purposes and transferring it to agriculture, has literally "made the desert bloom." Some of this technology is already being shared with Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. All sides realize that a comprehensive regional water policy will ensure food production necessary to satisfy the Middle East's growing population. For example, in late 2013, the three parties agreed to build a Red Sea-Dead Sea water project to address the shortage of fresh, clean water in the region and the rapid loss of water at the Dead Sea. This highlights the growing importance for Israel and her Arab neighbors to work together on joint environmental projects.

The key regional players also face serious environmental issues in the Dead Sea region. One of the major environmental concerns is the receding of the Dead Sea and the appearance of sinkholes, which cause the earth above to collapse. Roads, fields and buildings have collapsed due to this phenomenon, and experts are concerned the tourist infrastructure along the Jordanian and Israeli shores of the Dead Sea are also in danger. This issue has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation.

2:00 PM	Depart for Jerusalem
3:30 PM	Return to hotel Prepare for departure Check out
6:00 PM	Depart
7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	*The U.S.-Israel Relationship: Bringing it All Together* Closing dinner - at Ester's

Closing Dinner
The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the bustling economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv; from the conflict plagued northern borders with Syria and Lebanon, to the environmental and

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geographical wonders of the Negev desert and the Dead Sea. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the experience of minorities in Israel, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways, and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered throughout the week.

8:45 PM	Depart for Ben Gurion Airport
11:10 PM Saturday - 4:15 AM Sunday	Flight departs

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

4:15 AM - 6:00 AM	Arrive at Newark Liberty International Airport
6:00 AM - 7:20 AM	Depart Newark Liberty International Airport
7:20 AM	Arrive Washington Dulles International Airport

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AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

March 21, 2017

Bill Bode
Office of the Honorable Thom Tillis
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Bill,

We would like to invite you to join us for an educational seminar in Israel for congressional staff sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF). This year we are offering two seminars. This first trip will depart on Saturday, July 1 and return on Sunday, July 9. The second trip will depart on Saturday, August 12 and return on Sunday, August 20. If you would like to participate in one of these educational seminars, please indicate your preferred dates on the confirmation form.

The trip will explore critical foreign policy and national security challenges facing both Israel and the United States and how the two countries are cooperating in dealing with these issues. The program will include discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. officials, Palestinian representatives and leading academics and journalists. The program will also include:

- Briefings on the status of Iranian compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and Iran's continued malign regional activities;
- In-depth discussions on the Israeli and Palestinian political climate and prospects for peace, as well as the political changes taking place in the region;

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- A visit to Israel's southern border and briefings on the threat posed by the terrorist organization Hamas which maintains control over the Gaza strip;
- A strategic survey of Israel's northern border;
- Visits to historic and religious sites in Jerusalem and the Galilee.

No later than 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting two forms, as well as a copy of this invitation to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. AIEF will provide you with a copy of the "Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form." You must also submit a completed and signed "Employee Pre-Travel Authorization Form" to the Committee. AIEF is committed to ensuring that every aspect of the trip complies with the Senate travel rules. If you have any specific questions about the rules, please contact the Senate Select Committee on Ethics.

We hope that you will be able to join us on what promises to be a rich, insightful and educational trip. If you have any questions, please contact Aubrey López at (202) 330-4422. To confirm your participation, please fill out the Participant Confirmation Form to alopez@aiefdn.org.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Fishman

Richard Fishman
Executive Director, AIEF

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF strives to provide qualitative and balanced educational symposia for members of Congress and congressional staff, leaders in the fields of politics and business and students. Established in 1990, AIEF has earned a reputation for producing informative and thought-provoking educational seminars in Israel.

AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION | *The Charitable Organization affiliated with AIPAC*
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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

August 4, 2017

William Bode
Office of Senator Thom Tillis
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Bode:

This responds to your recent correspondence concerning an invitation you received to travel to an educational seminar, in Israel, on August 12-20, 2017, sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF). AIEF certified to the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) that it will pay the *necessary expenses*[1] related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, nor lobbying firm, nor agent of a foreign principal, and it is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. AIEF has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist will accompany you at *any point throughout your trip*.[2]

Based on information and materials available to the Committee, and assuming the **actual** travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, it appears that the proposed payment or reimbursement of necessary expenses for this trip **may be accepted** under relevant Senate Rules and the Committee's *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel*, so long as at the time of the payment or reimbursement, AIEF is neither a registered lobbyist nor lobbying firm under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, nor an agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (and is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government), and provided the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Senate Rules 34 and 35.

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel*

[1] The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 8.

[2] The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 2.

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Certification Form, and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately-Sponsored Travel.**

The Committee has determined that § 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that are classified as private foundations, as opposed to public charities, may not pay for transportation from the United States to a foreign country.[3] However, AIEF represented to the Committee that it is a § 501(c)(3) public charity, as opposed to a private foundation, pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.[4]

Please be advised that the United States Constitution prohibits the acceptance of any gift, including a meal, from a foreign government without the consent of Congress. In the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), Congress consented to the acceptance by federal government officials of: (1) gifts of minimal value and (2) travel or the expenses for travel taking place entirely outside the United States, from a foreign government (which includes those acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government).[5] The Senate has defined minimal value as $100 or less. Further, pursuant to FGDA, there are certain reporting and procedural requirements that are imposed upon Members, officers, and employees who accept gifts from a foreign government. Please review the Committee's "Dear Colleague" letter of January 9, 2015 setting forth the items to be included in filing that report.

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual,[6] on his or her Financial Disclosure Report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the aggregate, travel expenses exceed $390 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their Financial Disclosure Report.

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[3] *See* 26 U.S.C. § 4941 et seq. Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code broadly defines non-profit, charitable, tax-exempt organizations. These § 501(c)(3) organizations are then further defined or designated as "public charities" and "private foundations."

[4] 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

[5] 5 U.S.C. § 7342.

[6] A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 ($124,406 for CY 2017) or is a political fund designee and is required to file Financial Disclosure Reports.

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If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,

Deborah Sue Mayer

Deborah Sue Mayer
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Travel Checklist

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