0000000000763 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: April 19, 2022

Print This Form... Clear Form

# SENATORS AND OFFICERS POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

This disclosure, along with a copy of the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form and all attachments, MUST be provided to the **Office of Public Records**, **Room 232 of the Hart Building**, within **30 days** after the travel is completed.

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I Senator Ben Sasse, make the following
*(Name of Senator/Officer)*
disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me.

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): American Enterprise Institute

Travel date(s): March 10 - 13, 2022

Destination(s): Sea Island, Georgia

Name of accompanying family member (if any): Melissa Sasse

Relationship to Member/Officer: ☒ Spouse ☐ Child

FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE LINES. 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 Senator/Officer:**

| | Transportation Expenses | Lodging Expenses | Meal Expenses | Other Expenses (Amount & Description) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☒ Good Faith Estimate<br>☐ Actual Amount | See Attached | TOTAL: $1,602.20 ($534.00/night) | (3)Breakfast: $42<br>(2)Lunch: $48<br>(2) Dinner: $55 | Waived Conference Fee for All Speakers: $16,000 |

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

| | Transportation Expenses | Lodging Expenses | Meal Expenses | Other Expenses (Amount & Description) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☒ Good Faith Estimate<br>☐ Actual Amount | See Attached | | (3)Breakfast: $42<br>(2)Lunch: $48<br>(2) Dinner: $55 | |

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

I HAVE MADE A DETERMINATION THAT THE TRAVEL DESCRIBED ABOVE WAS IN CONNECTION WITH MY DUTIES AS AN OFFICEHOLDER, AND DID NOT CREATE THE APPEARANCE THAT I WAS USING PUBLIC OFFICE FOR PRIVATE GAIN.

4/1/2022
*(Date)*

Ben Sasse
*(Signature of Senator/Officer)*

(Revised 1/3/11) **Form RE-3**

Transportation Expenses:
$1168 ($668 airfare*, $500 round trip for ground transportation - ground transportation is only charged once per couple
*avg. round trip DCA to JAX as of 2.3.2022
$668 for guest flight (ground transportation listed above)

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## Friday, March 11

7:30–8:30 a.m. Early Bird Breakfast — The Cloister

**An Interview with the Director of the National Economic Council**

Brian Deese
James Pethokoukis (Moderator)

The Director of the National Economic Council will discuss the current economic climate in the United States, along with its challenges and solutions.

15 Min Break

8:45–10:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions — The Cloister

**The Return of Stagflation?**

Jason Furman
Michael R. Strain
Phillip Swagel
Kevin Warsh
Mark M. Zandi
James Pethokoukis (Moderator)

Consumer prices are rising faster than they have in decades. Inflation is wrecking consumer confidence. The Federal Reserve came to realize it was behind the curve in curbing inflation, but did that realization come too late? Will inflation cool in 2022, or will it lead to stagnation? Will the Fed be forced to take aggressive action, and could that accidentally tip the economy into a recession? A panel of expert economists will discuss what to expect this year.

**What Is the University For?**

Joshua T. Katz
Anthony Kronman
Jenna Silber Storey
Benjamin Storey (Moderator)

Higher education has been the subject of intense controversy in recent years, as threats to free speech, intellectual diversity, and the academic ethic have proliferated. But to prevail in the resulting struggles, it is crucial to recall what there is to fight for in the university, not just what there is to fight against. Worries about illiberalism on campus should point us toward the importance of liberal education and the essential role that the humanities can play in the life of a free society.

**What to Do About Ukraine**

Hal Brands
Frederick W. Kagan
Rob Portman
Kori Schake (Moderator)

Russia has amassed more than 130,000 troops on Ukraine's borders and demanded the US reverse 30 years of European security as the price for Russia not invading Ukraine. What are the US and NATO doing, and what should they be doing to respond?

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**What to Expect from This Year's Supreme Court Session**

Paul D. Clement
Amy Howe
Scott A. Keller
Adam J. White (Moderator)

The ongoing term of the Supreme Court, which will conclude this spring, is exceptionally packed with consequential cases. The justices will take up abortion, affirmative action, religious liberty, the administrative state, and a number of other crucial issues. What should we expect in these key cases, and what might they teach us about the direction of the Roberts Court and the future of our system of government?

15 Min Break

10:15–11:30 a.m. Morning Sessions — The Cloister

**Securing Public Trust in Our Elections**

John C. Fortier
Kevin Johnson
Yuval Levin (Moderator)

The administration of elections has become explosively controversial in the past few years, as both serious worries and baseless conspiracies have multiplied while Republicans and Democrats have each pursued partisan legislative measures on their own. Distinguishing truth from falsehood and fostering greater public confidence in the essential infrastructure of our democracy requires an informed and level-headed conversation across party lines.

**Should Washington Regulate Silicon Valley?**

Katie Biber
Timothy J. Muris
Jeffrey A. Rosen
Ari Schulman
Adam J. White (Moderator)

As the major social-media platforms and other key technology companies have come to play a greater role in the lives of all Americans, policymakers have increasingly been pressured to regulate their growing power. The prospect of such action has divided the political right in particular. But aggressive talk has far exceeded careful thought on all sides of the resulting debates, and some basic questions remain wide open: What are the problems to be solved? What powers are legitimately available to policymakers? What are the potential consequences of action and inaction?

**Talent: What We Know About How It is Cultivated and What It Means for Schools, Parents, and Education Policy**

Doug Ducey
Michael Gove
Michael Moe
Ian Rowe
Matt Sigelman
Frank C. Worrell
John P. Bailey (Moderator)

We use the word "talent" all the time, but what is it? Do we really understand how to identify and cultivate it in children and workers? Does our educational system help or hinder it? Are we overlooking talented young people because of how we measure ability? Join us for an intriguing discussion about the state of talent development in America and what it means for our schools, universities, and businesses.

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Informal Lunch — The Cloister

30 Min Break

The Cloister

1:00–3:15 p.m. General Session

**China**

Jim Banks
Ami Bera
Dan Blumenthal
Matt Pottinger
Derek Scissors
Danielle Pletka (Moderator)

The US-China formal diplomatic relationship is creeping up to a half century in age. Rarely has it been so fraught. The two nations are intertwined as never before economically, politically, and militarily. Once, China's predations in the South China Sea, its aggression toward Taiwan, its theft of American intellectual property, and even its takeover of Hong Kong could be glossed over; they were matters of concern but not action. That is no longer the case. Under the Trump administration, trade relations soured over allegations that Beijing manipulated and violated global trading rules. Under the Biden administration, the trading relationship has not improved (though trade and investment have continued to soar), and Congress has ensured that sanctions are now in place for what two secretaries of state have labeled the ongoing genocide against China's Muslim Uyghurs. Is there an endgame between the US and China? How about a strategy? And what exactly is it that strategy?

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15 Min Break

**Executive Time or Participation in Taiwan War Game**

3:30–5:30 p.m. Taiwan War Game — The Cloister

Join AEI's Foreign and Defense Policy Studies scholars for a war game, modeled after Pentagon strategy sessions, and learn about the department's research on how the US can counter China. You will play as a US or allied leader and make decisions as a crisis unfolds in the Taiwan Strait. Will you be able to contain the crisis, or will China take the island?

5:30–6:00 p.m. Reception

6:00–6:45 p.m. Dinner Conversation — The Cloister

**Governing in Divided Times**

Elise Stefanik
Patrick McHenry
Yuval Levin(Moderator)

If Republicans regain one or both chambers of Congress in 2023, control of Congress and the presidency will be divided for the fifth time in the 21st century. If control changes hands, how would a divided Congress relate to President Joe Biden, and what space would there be for policymaking on the country's toughest challenges?

6:45–8:15 p.m. Dinner — The Cloister

15 Min Break — The Cloister

8:30–9:30 p.m. Starlight Chats

**A Conversation with Tim Scott**

**Our Age of Decadence**

Ross Douthat
Yuval Levin (Introduction)

## Saturday, March 12

7:30–8:30 a.m. Early Bird Breakfasts — The Cloister

**Why Does Racial Inequality Persist?**

Glenn C. Loury
Ryan Streeter (Introduction)

**The Future of Conservative Journalism**

Jonah Goldberg
Ramesh Ponnuru
Matthew Continetti (Moderator)

15 Min Break

8:45–10:15 a.m. Breakout Sessions — The Cloister

**America's Pandemic Response: Lessons and Challenges**

Scott Gottlieb
Asa Hutchinson
Joseph A. Ladapo
James Taranto (Moderator)

America's response to COVID-19 has raised far more questions than it has answered. How can we hasten the return to normalcy? How can we prevent the next pandemic and protect our way of life from dramatic changes? How should policymakers navigate the relationship between public health and economic well-being? And is there a place for mandates and restrictive public health measures in a free society? Join former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo, and moderator James Taranto of the *Wall Street Journal* as they look for answers.

**Can the US Defend Taiwan?**

Hal Brands
Klon Kitchen
Oriana Skylar Mastro
Rick Scott
Kori Schake (Moderator)

China has been unwavering in insisting on reunification with Taiwan, although the Taiwanese increasingly view themselves as Taiwanese rather than Chinese. China has modernized its military, prioritizing capabilities to threaten Taiwan's independence. Does China pose a near-term military threat to Taiwan? Could it subvert Taiwan without fighting? Leading AEI scholars will share their research on the threats China poses.

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**Leaving No Man Behind: The American Patriots Rescuing US Citizens and Allies We Abandoned in Afghanistan**

Elliot Ackerman
Mike Edwards
Michael Waltz
Marc A. Thiessen (Moderator)

While the Biden administration is heralding its August pull-out from Afghanistan as an "extraordinary success," America's tumultuous retreat has sparked outrage and shame in the United States and abroad. Amid a hasty and calamitous military evacuation, a terror attack carried out by the Islamic State–Khorasan at Kabul's international airport on August 26, 2021, resulted in the deaths of an estimated 170 Afghans and 13 US service members. Moreover, despite President Joe Biden's vow to leave no man behind, when the last American plane departed Kabul, hundreds of American citizens and as many as 62,000 of our Afghan allies were left stranded and at the mercy of the Taliban. In the face of government inaction, a handful of individuals dedicated themselves to raising awareness and getting those we abandoned out of Afghanistan. Join AEI Senior Fellow Marc A. Thiessen as he hosts Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL), founder of Project Exodus Relief and former Army Special Operations Officer Mike Edwards, and author and former Marine Elliot Ackerman for a discussion on their past and ongoing efforts to rescue the American citizens and Afghan allies left behind during the US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

15 Min Break

10:30–11: 45 a.m. Morning Conversation — The Cloister

**A Conversation with Michael Burns**

Ross Douthat (Moderator)

Michael Burns, vice chairman of Lionsgate, has been a prominent Hollywood executive for two decades. Leading the company responsible for such hit films as *The Hunger Games*, *John Wick*, and the *Twilight* franchise and television hits such as *Mad Men* and *Orange Is the New Black*, among many others, he is also one of the few right-of-center voices in the industry. Mr. Burns and AEI Nonresident Fellow Ross Douthat will discuss the state of the movie business, politics and Hollywood, and much more.

15 Min Break

12:00–1:45 p.m. Lunch Conversation — The Cloister

15 Min Break

**A Conversation with Mitch McConnell**

2:00–3:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions — The Cloister

**Alternative Approaches to Poverty**

Robert Doar
Glenn C. Loury
Ian Rowe
Scott Winship
Naomi Schaefer Riley (Moderator)

Progressive politicians and experts often identify racial discrimination and material deprivation as the primary causes of poverty in America. Conservatives believe the issue is more complicated and that issues such as family formation, employment, substance abuse, and neighborhood safety are more important. But what are the solutions to those issues? And how big of a role should government efforts play in addressing them? Panelists will share their insights around alternative solutions to the challenges of poverty and inequality. Professor Glenn C. Loury of Brown University and AEI's Ian Rowe will also offer their perspectives on race and inequality—a preview of the conference they are organizing in Dallas this May.

**Does the Biden Economic Agenda Have a Future?**

Ami Bera
John Cornyn
Brian Deese
R. Glenn Hubbard
Patrick McHenry
Michael R. Strain
Alex Brill (Moderator)

President Joe Biden's Build Back Better (BBB) initiative collapsed. But the White House and congressional Democrats remain committed to advancing an economic and social policy agenda. What are the prospects for major legislation? What would a BBB 2.0 include? And how would Democrats' policy goals affect the economy, workers, and households?

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**How Do We Teach Contested American History?**

Wilfred M. McClay
Diana Schaub
Ben Sasse
Yuval Levin (Moderator)

History and civic education are essential to national unity, but as we have seen in recent years, they are also inherently controversial subjects. In deciding how to teach the rising generation about both the highs and the lows of our society's past, we are forced to ask who we are as a nation and who we aim to be. How should historians, teachers, parents, and citizens approach the resulting challenges? How can we avoid both whitewashing our greatest national failings and diminishing our country's greatest achievements?

**Stressing Institutions: The White House and the Justice Department After the 2020 Election**

Jeffrey A. Rosen
Marc A. Thiessen (Moderator)

During President Donald Trump's last month in office, he continued to repeat claims of widespread election fraud, both publicly and privately, including to cabinet officials. At the Department of Justice (DOJ), Acting Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen faced persistent inquiries from the president, but the department maintained its proper role and held fast to the rule of law. What really happened? What is the DOJ's proper role? Why did the system work in this instance? And how can we move on with a renewed commitment to the Constitution?

4:00–5:00 p.m. Executive Time The Cloister

4:45–5:45 p.m. Reception The Cloister

15 Min Break

Keynote Lecture The Cloister

**A Conversation with Susan Collins**

5:45–7:00 p.m.
15 Min Break

Robert Doar (Moderator)

Senator Susan Collins, in conversation with AEI President Robert Doar, will discuss the current domestic policy issues facing the United States Senate.

7:15–8:45 p.m. Dinner The Beach Club

15 Min Break

Starlight Chat The Cloister

**Welcome to the Intellectual Wet Market**

9:00–10:00 p.m.

Jonah Goldberg

**A Conversation with Nicholas Eberstadt**

Robert Doar (Moderator)

## Sunday, March 13

8:00–10:00 a.m. Early Bird Breakfast The Cloister

**The State of the Climate**

Steven E. Koonin
Shelley Moore Capito
Ryan Streeter (Moderator)

Steve Koonin is a world-renowned physicist and bestselling author of Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, and Why It Matters (2021), which lays out the science of climate change in ways rarely covered in the media. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) is the highest-ranking Republican on climate policy in the US Senate. This session will explore the state of the science on climate change and what commonsense policies should look like.

**How Conservatives Changed the World—and How They Can Do It Again**

Matthew Continetti

AEI Senior Fellow Matthew Continetti will offer a sweeping account of conservatism's evolution, from the Progressive Era through the present. Drawing out the tensions between the desire for mainstream acceptance and the pull of ideological purity, Continetti argues that the more one studies conservatism's past, the more one can make sense of its present and its future.

**Senator Ben Sasse and Wife Melissa Sasse**

**Arrival Flight:**

- **Thursday, March 10th – DCA - JAX**
- **4:59 PM – 7:04 PM**
- **American 5223**

**Official Travel ends 10:00am on March 13th and then the traveler has a trip extension**