

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp:

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): The Aspen Institute Inc. (Socrates Program) ("AISP")

Travel date(s): 08/26/2022-08/28/2022

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

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	\$240.62	\$252.00	\$229.95	\$393.50
☒ Actual Amount				

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.):

The seminar's purpose was to develop skills that are applicable to the legislative body, building informal networks that are key to career advancement and support, and providing participants access to a range of Aspen Institute programming.

The Socrates Seminar comprised of a roundtable discussion and collaborative weekend-long event for participants to contribute their understanding of and reactions to the readings, with the guidance of expert moderators. See attached for a complete itinerary.

9/14/22
(Date)

Prerna Bhat
(Printed name of traveler)

Prerna Bhat
(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.

9/21/22
(Date)

[Signature]
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

(Revised 1/3/11)

Form RE-2

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Date/Time Stamp:

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: Prerna BhatEmploying Office/Committee: Office of Senator Elizabeth WarrenPrivate Sponsor(s) (list all): The Aspen Institute Inc. (Socrates Program) ("AISP")Travel date(s): 08/26/2022-08/28/2022Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.Destination(s): Charlottesville, VA

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

The AISP is sponsoring a Socrates seminar to discuss leadership, responsible governance and the role of Congress, which is of relevance to Congressional policy staff.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

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:

7/26/22
 (Date)

Prerna Bhat
 (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 Elizabeth Warren hereby authorize Prerna Bhat
 (Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (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) ☐

7/27/22
 (Date)

Elizabeth Warren
 (Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)



Emerging Governance Leaders Seminar

Leadership & the Role of Congress

Seminar will be moderated by Dr. Colleen Shogan
(Dr. Shogan will moderate all program sessions and mealtime discussions)

Seminar Weekend Schedule

August 26th – 28th, 2022

Monticello

Charlottesville, Virginia

Seminar Location: Montalto

This weekend seminar will focus on three aspects: 1) developing skills that are applicable to the legislative body; 2) building informal networks that are key to career advancement and support; and 3) provide participants access to a range of Aspen Institute programming. This opportunity will provide staffers and those interested in government careers with experiences and tools to help them thrive in their current roles and better position themselves for longer, more impactful careers in the U.S. Congress.

Friday, August 26th

5:00 p.m. Shuttle departure from Capitol Hill

7:30 p.m. Shuttle arrives in Charlottesville

7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Seminar Check-In & Reception
200 South Street

8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Socrates Opening Dinner and Program**
200 South Street

Conversation will consider the governance challenges of Congress, exploring what resources and knowledge inform Congress and how technology and changing norms of representation are affecting governance.



Saturday, August 27th

7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast
Montalto – Dining Room

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Seminar Session I: The Evolution of Congress: How Did We Get Here?

(Break 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.)

Board Room

Seminar discussions are based on the following texts and videos:

Origins

- Hamilton / Madison, *The Federalist Papers* “No. 57” and “No. 63”
- Nelson Polsby, *How Congress Evolves*, “Causes of Liberalization” and “Overview of the House” pp. 80-96 and 148-155
- Barbara Sinclair, *Congress Reconsidered*, “The New World of U.S. Senators” 11th edition, pp. 1-4

What Does It Mean to Represent? Mr. Smith versus Charlie Wilson

- “Mr. Smith Goes To Washington” movie clip. 1939
- “Charlie Wilson’s War” movie clip. 2007
- Note: Brief movie clips are shown specifically for discussion purposes around the subject matter of working in Washington and to guide discussion (not for entertainment purposes)

12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Working Lunch with Discussion of Seminar Session I

Montalto – Dining Room

Conversation will consider the evolution of Congress and what it means to represent.

12:45 p.m. -- 1:45 p.m.

Historical Educational Tour of Monticello

The historical educational tour will feature the highlights of Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello and his vision and beliefs including equal rights, personal freedom, and democratic values.

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Seminar Session II: Congress and Its Governance Challenges



(Break 3:30 p.m. -
3:45 p.m.)

Board Room

Seminar discussions are based on the following texts••

Congressional Incentives and Disincentives

- Matthew Glassman, “Why Congress Doesn’t Always Do The Right Thing,” *The New York Times*, February 7, 2018

Governance Challenges for Congress

- Molly Reynolds, “Improving congressional capacity to address problems and oversee the executive branch,” The Brookings Institution, December 4, 2019
- John Rackey, Lauren Bell, and Kevin Kosar, “House committees are hearing from fewer witnesses. That hurts policy,” *The Washington Post*, January 28, 2022
- Josh Huder, “Rest in Peae Congressional Budget Process,” Georgetown’s Government Affairs Institute (GAI) blog, June 6, 2022

Technology and Changing Norms of Representation

- Grace Gedy, “How Congress Got Dumb on Tech – and How It Can Get Smart Again,” *Washington Monthly*, April 7, 2019

Is Congress a Dysfunctional Place to Work?

- Paul Hanges, Frances Lee, Kristina Miller, Jennifer Wessel, “Report on the Organizational Climate of Congress.” University of Maryland, October 2019, pp. 9-20 and 46-56
- Amissa Ratliff, Jamie Neikrie, and Michael Beckel, “Why Congress Needs to Invest in Junior Staff,” Issue One Report, January 25, 2022
- Maya Kornberg, “The People’s Branch,” Leg Branch Blog, October 16, 2021
- Brad Korten, “For many Capitol Hill staffers, the trauma of Jan. 6 has never left,” Roll Call, January 6, 2022

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Reception

Montalto Parlor and Dining Room

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dinner with Discussion of Seminar Session II

Dining Room and Conservatory



Conversation will consider the changing environment in Congress and whether or not it is becoming a dysfunctional place to work.

8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fireside Chat
Conservatory

Conversation with **Gayle Jessup White**, Public Relations & Community Engagement Officer, The Thomas Jefferson Foundation and author of *Reclamation: Sally Hemings, Thomas Jefferson, and a Descendant's Search for Her Family's Lasting Legacy*

Discussion will explore why Gayle Jessup White wrote her book "*Reclamation*" and what she views as the biggest issues in American politics today, her hopes for the future and thoughts on working in a public service role. Moderated by **Cordell Carter**

Sunday, August 28th

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast
Dining Room & Conservatory

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Seminar Session III: Congressional Reform: Ideas and Challenges
Board Room

(Break 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.)

Discussions are based on the following reform proposals:

- Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, "Recommendations for 116th and 117th Congress"
- "Building and Maintaining a Diverse and Inclusive Congressional Office," Representative Democracy, pp. 13-28
- Molly Reynolds, "What is the Senate filibuster and what would it take to eliminate it?" The Brookings Institution, September 9, 2020
- Yuval Levin, "Building a More Civil and Collaborative Culture in Congress: Some Diagnostic and Prescriptive Reflections," American Enterprise Institute, June 17, 2021
- Darrell M. West, "Is it time to restore the US Office of Technology Assessment?" Brookings Institution, February 10, 2021



- “Resolution Fact Sheet,” Congressional Workers Union,
May 9, 2022

12:00 p.m. Check-Out

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Working Lunch with Discussion of Seminar III**
Conservatory

Conversation will consider Articles 1 and 2 of the Constitution,
and how foundations of the U.S. government inform and influence
the role of Congress today.

1:00 p.m. **Shuttle departs for Capitol Hill**

3:00 p.m. **Shuttle drops off participants**

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.

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1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): The Aspen Institute Inc. (Socrates Program) ("AISP")

 2. Description of the trip: The AISP is sponsoring a Socrates seminar to discuss leadership, responsible governance and the role of Congress.

 3. Dates of travel: August 26-28, 2022

 4. Place of travel: Charlottesville, VA

 5. Name and title of Senate invitees: See attached Appendix

 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:

The Aspen Institute Socrates Program is the sole sponsor of the seminar and organized and conducted the trip (including selected the participants, developed the agenda, planned the seminar, and coordinated the travel). (See attached Appendix)

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

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies non-partisan, non-profit organization whose mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and provide a non-partisan forum for the exchange of ideas.

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

The Aspen Institute has a nearly forty year history of conducting non-partisan educational congressional trips; The Socrates Program, specifically, also has conducted congressional trips.

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

The Aspen Institute organizes numerous educational activities, including briefings, round tables, forums, and conferences for a diverse range of attendees including federal and state policy makers, business and organization leaders, members of the press, and the general public.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
☒ Good Faith estimate ☐ Actual Amounts	\$240.62	\$252.00	\$172.50	\$627.84 (see attached appendix)

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 organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

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

Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, VA is close to Washington, D.C., which provides for ease of travel for participants and moderator(s). It is also historically relevant to the seminar topic.

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

200 South Street Inn

200 West Street, Charlottesville VA 22902

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

Close proximity to seminar location and rates equal to per diem rates for Albemarle County.

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:

The daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses are equal to the per diem

rates for official Federal Government travel.

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:

Round-trip transportation will be provided by chartered, coach-class bus between Washington D.C. and

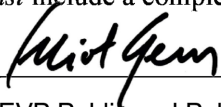
Charlottesville and between the hotel and seminar location daily.

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, 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:

None

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor: 

Name and Title: Elliot Gerson EVP Public and Policy Programs

Name of Organization: The Aspen Institute Inc.

Address: 2300 N. St. NW 700 Washington, D.C. 20037

Telephone Number: (202) 736-5859 (Lisa Jones, Deputy General Counsel)

Fax Number:

E-mail Address: lisa.jones@aspeninstitute.org (Lisa Jones, Deputy General Counsel)

Question 5: Name and titles of Senate Invitees:**Prerna Bhat***Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Legislative Aide*

Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren

Ishan Mehta*Legislative Assistant*

Office of Senator Brian Schatz

Mandar Jadhav*Policy Advisor*

Senator Bill Cassidy

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

The Aspen Institute has received general support and unrestricted funds from the Democracy Fund to support the Aspen Institute Socrates Program. These foundation funds were not earmarked for a specific trip and the Democracy Fund did not participate in organizing or conducting the trip.

Question 16: Add detail on total expenses for each participant

Other expenses: \$627.84 includes conference room meeting facilities (\$585.84) and educational historical tour of Monticello (\$42.00).