RE-3 Senators and Officers Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2024 MAY -6 PM 2:25
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. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification: *In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):

U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)

Travel Dates:

March 28-April 5, 2024

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Jordan Lankford

Relationship to Traveler:

Daughter

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$16,954.15/person	$3,070 - Senator / $180 - Jordan	$1,385/person	$4,885.40/person

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

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.

5/6/24
Date

James Lankford
Printed Name of Senator/Officer

Signature of Senator/Officer

0000000003651 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 06, 2024

U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

December 13, 2023

Dear Senator Lankford,

I would like to extend an invitation to you and a guest to join us for an innovative tour to Israel from **March 28 - April 6, 2024**. U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA) leads Congressional Delegations on advanced fact-finding missions for Senior Members. These tours travel through Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and investigate the prominent demographic issues related to security and economy. You will meet the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who are forging an integrated economic development plan, even in the face of war, as well as engage directly with Israel's top leaders in government, business, defense, and visit both the Northern and Southern conflict zones.

This privately sponsored trip will provide all meals, accommodations, and travel expenses. A private security staff will escort the tour for the length of your time in Israel. The number of tour participants is intentionally limited to maintain an atmosphere that strengthens relationships and encourages participation in dialogue related to your committee assignments and areas of expertise.

To accept our invitation, your office is required to submit travel documents to Congressional Ethics for approval. If you wish to accept our invitation, we kindly ask that you begin the submission process now with our office in order to make reservations and organize necessary travel arrangements.

We would be honored to have you join us on this unforgettable trip at an historical time.

Every Blessing,

Heather Johnston

Heather Johnston
Founder & Executive Director
U.S. Israel Education Association

0000000003652 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 06, 2024

U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Senator James Lankford
Oklahoma Senior Senator

Senator Lankford was invited to attend the USIEA Congressional Delegation to Israel because of his relevant committee assignments and leadership in the Senate. He is currently serving his second term in the U.S. Senate.

Committee Assignments:
Senate Committee on Finance

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Senate Committee on Ethics

Relevant Caucus Assignments:
Abraham Accords Caucus

0000000003653 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 06, 2024

U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

USIEA Congressional Tour
March 28-April 5, 2024
Confirmed Members

Senator James Lankford (R-OK)
Senate Committee on Finance (Ranking Member of Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure Subcommittee)
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (Ranking Member of Government Operations and Border Management Subcommittee)
Senate Committee on Ethics (Ranking Member of Committee)
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
2014

Congressional Staff:
Ms. Grace Higgins, *Legislative Aide to Senator Lankford*

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

(•) Yes ( ) No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Lodging (Jordan Lankford Only)	$180	Amount decreased due to better rate on hotel prices.
Meals for Both	$1,385	Amount increased due to briefings scheduled over meals.
Other for Both	$4,885.40	Amount decreased due to reduction in security price.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

(•) Yes ( ) No

Explanation:

Yes, please see attached updated itinerary. The itinerary shifted due to the changing nature of Israeli government leaders' availability. This caused shifting in the rest of the itinerary to accomodate their schedules.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

( ) Yes (•) No

Explanation:

No other changes were made to the pre-approved trip.

Trip Name: USIEA Congressional Tour to Israel

Organization Information

Organization Name:
U.S. Israel Education Association (USIE

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
[●] Yes [ ] No

If Yes, §501(c)(3) Organization Type:
[ ] Private Foundation [✓] Public Charity

Address:
402 Office Park Drive, Suite 215

City, State, Zip:
Birmingham, AL 35223

Phone Number:
205-907-2756

Organization URL:
usieducation.org

History of Congressional Travel

Describe your organization's history of sponsoring congressional travel.

USIEA has been leading advanced fact-finding missions to Israel since 2011. We have successfully completed 7 privately sponsored trips in that time period.

Educational Activities

Describe the educational activities performed by your organization other than sponsoring congressional travel.

In addition to Congressional tours, USIEA also facilitates educational briefings on Capitol Hill. These briefings are organized for individual members and committees, and equip Congress with information on subjects related to the U.S.-Israel relationship. USIEA also works with individual offices and staff on an ongoing basis to provide up-to-date information on timely issues.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status (Select one):

[✓] I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.

[ ] I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist but does retain or employ one or more federally registered lobbyists.

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Select one):

[✓] I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and does not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.

[ ] I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal but does retain or employ one or more agents of a foreign principal.

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Must select all):

[✓] I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.

[✓] I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.

[✓] I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

USIEA will lead members of Congress and their staff on an advanced fact-finding mission in Israel. The delegation will travel through the West Bank, gathering firsthand knowledge of the geopolitical dynamics on the ground. The delegation will also meet with top leaders in government, business, military, and science. Finally, the delegation will receive briefings on the events of October 7th and visit both the Southern and Northern conflict zones in Israel.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

USIEA is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating senior government leaders and their staff on the U.S.-Israel relationship. USIEA fosters communication between U.S. and Israeli leaders and experts across government and all industries. This trip will provide members and their staff with the education necessary to make informed legislative decisions.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

☑ Yes ☐ No

If No, describe your organization's role in planning the trip.

N/A

If there are multiple sponsors, each sponsor must submit Organization Information (Page 1 of the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form) and a Signature Page Form.

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

If you have a Grantmaking Organization, you must attach a Grantmaking Organization Certification Form.

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A

With or Without Regard to Congressional Participation (Select one):

- [ ] The trip is arranged or organized without regard to congressional participation.
- [x] The trip is arranged or organized with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- [x] The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing (Must select all):

- [x] The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- [x] No funds or in-kind contributions were 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.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations (Select one):

- [x] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to 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
- [ ] The trip is limited to 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

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations (Select one):

- [ ] No sponsor retains or employs a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principle, the trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to 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
- [ ] The trip is limited to 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

Required if selecting the third option in either column - Please explain why the second overnight stay is practically required and necessary to accomplish the purpose of the trip.

N/A

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol (Must select all):

- [x] Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- [x] Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees list

- [x] A list of all Senate invitees is attached to this form (required).
- [x] Members and staff from the House of Representatives will also receive invitations.

Travel Details (Submit additional pages as needed)

Trip Start Date/Time:	⇄	Trip End Date/Time:
March 28, 2024		April 5, 2024

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

☑ Yes ☐ No

Transportation (Member/Officer/Employee: $16,954.15 Accompanying Family Member: $16,954.15)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Air	Business	$15,539.15 / person
Bus	Charter	$1,415.00 / person

Details (optional)

Lodging (Member/Officer/Employee: $3,070 Accompanying Family Member: $980)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
3/29/24	4/2/24	The David Citadel Hotel	Jerusalem		Israel

Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.
4	$690.00	Yes	Inflated prices due to war.

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
4/2/24	4/4/24	The Scots Hotel	Tiberius		Israel

Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.
2	$645.00	Yes	Inflated prices due to war.

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country

Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.

Meals (Member/Officer/Employee: $989 Accompanying Family Member: $989)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem (Y/N)
3/29/24	$0	$85	$146		$231	Jerusalem		Israel	Y
3/30/24	$0	$35	$50		$85	Jerusalem		Israel	N
3/31/24	$70	$55	$157		$282	Jerusalem		Israel	Y
4/1/24	$0	$65	$73		$138	Jerusalem		Israel	N
4/2/24	$0	$35	$0		$35	Tiberius		Israel	N
4/3/24	$0	$73	$0		$73	Tiberius		Israel	N
4/4/24	$0	$35	$110		$145	Tel Aviv		Israel	N

If costs exceed the federal per diem, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.

Costs exceed the federal per diem due to inflated prices in Israel related to the war. USIEA chose all meals, meeting rooms, and incidentals with the federal diem in mind and attempted to get rates as close as possible.

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses

(Member/Officer/Employee: $4,891 Accompanying Family Member: $4,891)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Security	$4,035.00	* all amounts are per person
Site Entrance Fees	$403.00	
Private Meeting Spaces	$283.00	
Misc. (Whispers, Notebooks, Adapters)	$170.00	

Additional Details (optional)

Daily breakfast costs reported at $0 reflect breakfasts that are included in the hotel rate.
Daily dinner costs reported at $0 reflect dinners that included in the hotel rate.

0000000003660 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 06, 2024

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: USIEA Congressional Tour to Israel

Travel Date(s): March 28-April 5, 2024

Travel Destination(s): Jerusalem & Tiberius, Israel

Sponsor: U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)

Heather Johnston — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Founder & CEO — *(title)*

Heather Johnston — *(signature of sponsor representative)*

2/20/24 — *(date)*

0000000003661 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 06, 2024

U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Congressional Tour
Israel Itinerary

UPDATED: 4/10/24

Thursday, March 28 – Friday, April 5 2024

** all times are local **

( ) denotes education hours

Departure – Thursday, March 28, 2024: Travel

Senator Lankford Flights

7:55 AM CST	OKC – Atlanta (DL1424)
12:15 PM EST	Atlanta – JFK (DL2198)
6:00 PM EST	JFK – Tel Aviv (DL7425)

Day 1 – Friday, March 29, 2024: Tel Aviv / Jerusalem (4 hrs.)

11:20 AM Arrive at TLV (DL7425)

Transfer to lunch to meet the group.

11:30 AM-12:30 PM Welcome & Orientation – David Citadel Hotel, Private Room (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Description: Explanation of the background and importance of the trip, specifically as it relates to each member's committee assignments, and overview to prepare for the important upcoming meetings.

12:30 PM-2:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

2:00 PM-2:30PM Check into Hotel

2:30 PM-3:00 PM Depart for Mt. of Olives

3:00 PM-4:00 PM Mt. of Olives – Overlook of Jerusalem (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Peace between West and East Jerusalem*
Description: A detailed understanding of the neighborhoods located inside of East Jerusalem, understanding the division between East and West Jerusalem, and the road to peace.

4:00 PM-4:30 PM Depart for the Church of the Holy Suplechre

4:30 PM -5:30 PM Church of the Holy Suplechre (1)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *Disputes Among Christian Denominations*

5:30 PM-6:00 PM Depart for Hotel

6:00 PM-7:00 PM Shabbat Dinner at Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 2 – Saturday, March 30, 2024: The South of Israel (8 hrs.)

7:30 AM-9:30 AM Breakfast – The David Citadel Hotel, Private Room (2)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Overview and Timeline of Israel's History*
Description: Presentation on history of Israel to set the foundation of the trip and give an understanding of the past cultures, religions, and history, as well as the role the U.S. plays today inside the nation.

Speaker: Jonathan Conricus
Topic: *Israel's Military Operations*
Description: A private briefing on Israel's military operations in Gaza since October 7th and future plans to prosecute the war. What does Israel need from the U.S. government? How can Israel provide transparency to U.S. lawmakers in this process?

9:30 AM-12:00 PM Depart for the South (1.5)

Speaker: Chris Mitchell
Topic: *October 7th, 2023*
Description: Presentation on the timeline of events leading up to October 7th and what transpired on that day. Providing context for the rest of the day's briefings as the delegation travels south toward the Gaza border.

12:00 PM-2:00 PM Lunch at Moshav Dekel (2)

Speaker: Displaced Residents of Moshav Dekel
Topic: *Rebuilding the South*
Description: Stories from the displaced residents in a southern Israeli community that was on the second line of defense on October 7th. What will it take to rebuild the communities in the south? What does the United States need to know about the current security status for these communities?

Speaker: Lt. Col. Eran Massas (Res.)
Topic: *Testimony from October 7th*
Description: A firsthand account from an IDF responder on October 7th. The atrocities he witnessed as he encountered terrorists and victims.

2:00 PM-2:30 PM Depart for Nir Oz

2:30 PM-4:00 PM Tour Kibbutz Nir Oz (1.5)

Speaker: Professor Yonatan Dekel Chen
Topic: *The First Line of Defense*
Description: A detailed briefing on Hamas' infiltration of Israeli communities on the frontline of the Gaza border on October 7th.

4:00-4:15 PM Depart for Nova Festival Site

4:15 PM-5:15 PM Nova Festival Site (1)

Speaker: Nova Survivor
Topic: *Survivor Stories*
Description: Firsthand accounts from those that survived the brutality of the October 7th attacks and what occurred specifically at the Nova Festival site. Unique insight into what it was like to be there on that day.

5:15 PM-6:30 PM Depart for Dinner in Ein Karem

6:30 PM-8:00 PM Dinner in Ein Karem – No Speaker

8:00 PM-8:30 PM Depart for The David Citadel Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 3 – Sunday, March 31, 2024: Jerusalem (6 hrs.)

6:45 AM-7:00 AM Depart for the Garden Tomb

7:00 AM-8:00 AM Easter Service at the Garden Tomb

8:00 AM-8:30 AM Depart for The King David Hotel

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Easter Breakfast – The King David Hotel, Private Room

10:00 AM-10:30 AM Depart for the City of David

10:30 AM-12:30 PM City of David Walking Tour – Jerusalem's Newest Archaeological Site (2)

Speaker: Ze'ev Orenstein, Director of International Affairs, City of David Foundation
Topic: *The Founding of Ancient Jerusalem & The Restoration of Modern Jerusalem*
Description: A description of the neighborhoods and boundaries today and the strategic locations of landmarks inside each neighborhood. Discussion of military strategy including the many tunnels still located under the modern city and understanding who controls each section.

12:30 PM-2:00 PM Lunch – City of David (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Jerusalem, also known as the City of David*
Description: Presentation of history from the original location of the city of Jerusalem and understanding the layout of the modern city today. Discussion of urban development issues and understanding economic consequences of the modern layout inside today's communities.

2:00 PM-2:30 PM Depart for Davidson Center

2:30 PM-3:30 PM Davidson Center (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Discovering Ancient Jerusalem & Its Significance Today*
Description: Educational tour of recent developments in the archaeological center and how each period has affected the nation's disputes still going on today. Also provides a strategic view of the Dome of the Rock with an overview of the violence and conflict erupting there today.

3:30 PM-5:00 PM Walk to the Western Wall – History & Overview (1)

Speaker: Chief Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch, Chief Rabbi of the Western Wall
Topic: *Historical Perspectives & Modern Controversies*
Description: An understanding of the connection to Temple Mount, entry restrictions from the western side, and what lies behind the Wall today. Discuss the impact of

these restrictions, land disputes, and strategic consequences behind each military defending their locations.

5:00 PM-5:30 PM Guided Walking Tour to Dinner Through Old City (.5)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *Understanding the Many Religious Sides of Jerusalem*
Description: Presentation on the intersection of three major world religions in Jerusalem and how this not only affects the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but is also a special point of interest for the rest of the world. Understanding the different arguments for land rights in Jerusalem based on religion.

5:30 PM-7:00 PM Dinner Debrief of Day – Mamila Restaurant (.5)

7:00 PM-7:15 PM Depart for The David Citadel Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 4 – Monday, April 1, 2024: Jerusalem (8 hrs.)

8:00 AM-9:00 AM Breakfast Briefing, The David Citadel Hotel – China Threat (1)

Speaker: Assaf Orion & Ariel Sobelman, INSS
Topic: *The China Threat*
Description: A background briefing on China as a national security threat to both the U.S. and Israel. Ways for both countries to reduce their dependence on China and look to each other and other allies to collaborate.

9:00 AM-10:00 AM Private Briefing on Artificial Intelligence, The David Citadel Hotel (1)

Speaker: Dror Bin, Chief Scientist, Israel Innovation Authority
Topic: *Israeli AI Prowess*
Description: A briefing on the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and Israel's leading work in the field. How can the U.S. tap into Israel's AI ecosystem and create healthy regulations without stifling innovation? How can AI transform the life sciences, health tech sector?

10:00 AM-11:30 AM Private Briefing on Israeli Life Sciences Industry (1.5)

Speaker: CEOs of Health Tech Startups from Our Crowd & IATI
Topic: *Israel as a Staging Ground for U.S. Friendshoring*
Description: An interactive briefing on the desire coming out of the Israeli health industry to have access to an FDA bureau in Israel. This would in turn benefit the U.S. by expediting Israeli items to the U.S. market and therefore diversifying and fortifying American supply chains.

11:30 AM-12:00 PM Depart for Lunch – Morning Debrief (.5)

Speaker: Ari Sacher, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Overview for the Morning*
Description: An overview of the morning meetings focused on the Chinese threat, AI emergence in Israel, and the opportunity for the U.S. to friendshore its critical pharmaceutical supply lines to Israel and the Abraham Accords nations. How do these three topics work together and how Israel and the U.S. can collaborate in the life sciences space?

12:00 PM-1:00 PM Lunch at the Israel Museum – Prep for Minister Meeting (.5)

1:00 PM-2:00 PM Depart for Prime Minister's Office - Security Brief & Check-In (.5)

2:00 PM-3:45 PM Private Meeting with the Minister of Strategic Affairs (1.5)

Speaker: Ron Dermer, Minister of Strategic Affairs
Topic: *Israel & the World*

Description: Briefing on Israel's relationship with the U.S. in light of the larger, global geopolitical factors. A time for the members to ask pertinent questions of the Minister on internal affairs, status in the region, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and major points of interest in the U.S.-Israel relationship.

3:45 PM-4:00 PM Depart for the David Citadel Hotel

4:00 PM-4:45 PM Change Clothes

4:45 PM-5:00 PM Walk to the Notre Dame

5:00 PM-7:00 PM Dinner Briefing at the Notre Dame (1.5)

Speaker: Bassam Eid, Palestinian Media Personality
Topic: *Reforming the Palestinian Education System*
Description: A deeper briefing on the corruption of Palestinian aid entities and how new funding mechanisms can be created. How can the U.S. help reform the Palestinian education system to stop inciting terror and violence against Israel? Pathways to build future peace.

7:00 PM-7:15 PM Walk to The David Citadel Hotel

Overnight - The David Citadel Hotel

Day 5 – Tuesday, April 2, 2024: Jerusalem / Samaria / Galilee (7.5 hrs.)

8:00 AM-9:00 AM Baggage Pick Up / Check Out / Breakfast on Own

9:00 AM-9:30 AM Depart for the Knesset

9:30 AM-10:00 AM Private Meeting with Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana (.5)

10:00 AM-11:00 AM Abraham Accords Commemoration – Knesset (1)

Topic: *Commemorating the Signing of the Abraham Accords*
Description: An event hosted by the Abraham Accords Caucus in the Knesset with dignitaries representing each of the Abraham Accords nations. An update on the progress of the Accords since their signing, and the future of the Accords under the shadow of October 7th.

11:00 AM-12:30 PM Depart for Ariel – Regional Hub, Samaria (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Survey of Demographic Realities, Samaria (Inside the Green Line)*
Description: An understanding of BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions), the divided land, and co-existence inside the green line.

12:30 PM-2:00 PM Lunch – Ron Nachman Pioneer Museum at the National Leadership Center (1.5)

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman, Co-Founder of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce
Topic: *Mutual Investment: Israelis & Palestinians in Joint Business*
Description: A briefing on Palestinians and Israelis working side by side in joint economics in the West Bank as a path toward peaceful coexistence. Insight into the challenges of the joint business vision in a post-October 7th world and how this affects existing U.S. legislation.

Speaker: Yair Chetboun, Mayor of Ariel
Topic: *Briefing on Ariel as the Capital & Regional Hub of Samaria*
Description: A history of the modern city of Ariel and its role as the capital of Samaria.

2:00 PM-2:30 PM Tour the National Leadership Center (0.5)

Speaker: Eran Glazer, Executive Director, Israel's National Leadership Center
Topic: *A New Generation of Leaders for Israel: Arabs & Jews Training Together*
Description: The role of the National Leadership Center and their key relationship with the Ministry of Education, the IDF, and the Arabs. A hands-on look at a unique program developing Israel's future leaders and rehabilitation efforts post-October 7th.

2:30 PM-3:30 PM Guided Bus Tour of Ariel (1)

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman, Co-Founder of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce
Topic: *Jewish Communities in the West Bank*
Description: A guided tour of the city of Ariel as a standard for Jewish communities inside of the West Bank. How do these communities operate and what are their security challenges in contrast to communities in internationally recognized Israel?

3:30 PM-4:00 PM Depart for Shiloh (.5)

Speaker: Ari Sacher, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Binational Foundations*
Description: Discuss the collaborative research success occurring at Ariel University and briefing on ways the U.S. government can work with Israelis under the BIRD, BARD, and BSF foundations, specifically geared toward life sciences.

4:00 PM-5:30 PM Ancient Shiloh Archaeological Site (1.5)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *Guided walking tour through ancient ruins of Shiloh*
Description: A look at the city of Shiloh and its recent historical findings through excavation. A look back over history in this region and why the years of hostility remains today. Can lessons be learned and changes be implemented with the involvement of U.S. leaders?

5:30 PM-6:00 PM Depart for Dinner

6:00 PM-7:30 PM Dinner at G'Vaot Winery

7:30 PM-9:00 PM Depart for The Scots Hotel

9:00 PM Check into The Scots Hotel

Overnight - The Scots Hotel

Day 6 – Wednesday, April 3, 2024: Galilee (6.5 hrs.)

8:00 AM-9:00 AM Breakfast on Own – The Scots Hotel

9:00 AM-10:30 AM Presentation on the Galilee Region – The Scots Hotel, Private Room (1.5)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *The History of the Galilee*
Description: Teaching on the historical, political, and spiritual background of the unique Galilee region and its importance in modern context.

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Bus Tour Around Galilee Region (1.5)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *The Galilee Region in Contrast to the West Bank*
Discussion: Discussion on the difference between traveling and life in Israel proper from the situation inside of the West Bank. A look at how Israeli life differs significantly depending on geographic location.

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *Briefing on Agriculture in the North*
Description: Briefing on Israel's agricultural challenges that created agricultural breakthroughs, and how the nation has created a "startup" culture around agriculture technology.

12:30 PM-1:00 PM Depart for Lunch

1:00PM-2:30 PM Lunch at Magdalena (1.5)

Speaker: Avicahi Stern, Mayor of Kiryat Shmona
Topic: *Northern Communities Post-October 7th*
Description: Lunch briefing with Mayor from leading northern community. An assessment of life in the north in a post-October 7th world, with insight into the future of the thousands of displaced Israelis. How will they be impacted by the protracted conflict with Hezbollah?

2:30 PM-3:00 PM Depart for Sea of Galilee

3:00 PM-6:30 PM Explore the Sea of Galilee – Bus Tour & Boat Ride (2)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *The Sea of Galilee*
Description: The bus will begin at the lunch restaurant near Capernaum and travel south to Tiberius. The members will receive a briefing on the ancient history of these towns and their current importance in the context of the conflict in the north of Israel with Hezbollah. Then the members will embark on a boat in Tiberius and ride the boat back to the hotel. They will be briefed on the importance of this

ancient seaport and understand the history and the unique cross over of religions between the Jewish and Christian holy sites. How religion in the Galilee plays a different role in Israeli society, versus Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The bus and the boat provide the best vantage points of the Sea of Galilee and the geography and topography along the shoreline.

6:30 PM-7:00 PM Depart for Hotel

7:00 PM Group Dinner – The Scots Hotel

Overnight - The Scots Hotel

Day 7 – Thursday, April 4, 2024: Galilee Region / Tel Aviv (8 hrs.)

7:30 AM-8:30 AM Baggage Pick Up / Check out / Breakfast on Own

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Morning Business Meeting (1.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Chief of Staff, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Debrief of the Congressional Tour with a Look to the Future*
Description: Discussion on major points of education on the tour, how these points specifically pertain to the members' role in the U.S. government, and how this information will impact the future of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

10:00 AM-11:15 AM Depart for Mt. Bental Overlook (1)

Speaker: Ari Sacher, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Looking to the North: Israel's Northern Fronts*
Description: Presentation connecting Israel's two northern fronts from Syria to Lebanon – how they are similar and how they differ, providing unique challenges and military readiness opportunities.

11:15 AM-12:15 PM Briefing at Mt. Bental Overlook (1)

Speaker: Ilan Shulman, IDF Intelligence Officer
Topic: *Israel's Syrian Border*
Description: Presentation on the security situation at Israel's Syrian border, including the implications of a Russian presence and how that affects current geopolitical dynamics.

12:15 PM-1:45 PM Depart for Kfar Vradim for ALMA Briefing – Picnic Lunch on Bus

1:45 PM-3:15 PM Kfar Vradim - The Lebanese Front (1.5)

Speaker: Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi, CEO & Founder, ALMA
Topic: *The Hezbollah Threat & Israel's Lebanese Front*
Description: Briefing on the current state of Lebanese affairs and how this affects Israel and the world at large. What is the US government's role in these situations? Discussion of the northern border as a strategic security front.

3:15 PM-4:15 PM Depart for Mt. Carmel

4:15 PM-5:15 PM Mt. Carmel (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Strategic Vantage Point & Final Overlook of the Northern Region*
Discussion: Presentation on the historical viewpoints on this location and how it serves as another strategic security point for Israel in its northern regional dynamics.

5:15 PM-6:30 PM Depart for Caesarea

6:30 PM-7:00 PM Ancient Archeological Park Caesarea, Walking Tour (0.5)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *Ancient Caesarea & Israel's Sea Border*
Description: Presentation on the history of ancient Caesarea and the importance of Israel's ports and waterfront for trade and security.

7:00 PM-9:00 PM Farewell Dinner - Crusaders Restaurant, Private Room (1.5)

Topic: *Members Debrief*
Description: Final discussion and overview of trip. Members highlight major focus points for U.S. government interests and actionable outcomes moving forward.

9:00 PM-10:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport

10:00 PM Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, Flight Check-In

Arrive Home – Friday, April 5, 2024: Travel

1:00 AM IST Group Flight Depart TLV – JFK (DL7424)

7:30 AM EST Group Flight Arrives at JFK

Senator Lankford Flights
8:15 AM EST JFK – Atlanta (DL2227)
12:25 PM EST Atlanta – OKC (DL1705)

0000000003675 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: May 06, 2024

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

March 19, 2024

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lankford:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting approval from the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) to accept an invitation you and your child received to travel on a fact finding trip to Jerusalem and Tiberias, Israel, on March 28–April 5, 2024, sponsored by the U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA). Provided that you adhere to the guidance set forth below, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from USIEA in connection with this trip.

Background

Based on your communication with the Committee, the background in this matter is as follows.[1] USIEA invited you and your child to travel on a fact finding trip to Jerusalem and Tiberias, Israel, on March 28–April 5, 2024. USIEA certified to the Committee that it will pay the necessary expenses[2] related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, lobbying firm, agent of a foreign principal, or otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. USIEA has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at any point throughout your trip.[3]

Discussion

Privately sponsored travel includes any gift of travel and travel-related expenses for travel outside the Senate duty station, including transportation, lodging, food and refreshments, and conference fees and materials, whether paid for directly, reimbursed, or provided directly, from a private individual or entity, in connection with a Member's, officer's, or employee's official Senate duties. Incorporating reforms from the Honest Leadership and Open Government

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[1] If this letter does not correctly recite the facts, contact the Committee immediately.

[2] The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 10-13.

[3] The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 15.

Act of 2007 (HLOGA), Pub. L. 110–81 (2007), Senate Rule 35.2 permits Members, officers, and employees to accept privately sponsored travel only with the prior written approval of the Committee.

The Committee's approval process is governed by the *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* (*Travel Regulations*). The *Travel Regulations* contain detailed requirements regarding who may sponsor travel; time limits for trips; and the type and amount of expenses that can be reimbursed.

Entities that do not retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent and all non-profit organizations designated as tax-exempt organizations under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, regardless of whether they retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent, may sponsor foreign trips for up to seven days. The seven-day limitation means seven 24-hour periods, calculated from the time of arrival in the trip location to the time of departure from the trip location. For such trips, neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany a Senate invitee at any point throughout the trip.[4] This means that neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany Senate invitees at any point to and from the event, at the event itself, or at the location being visited.[5]

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.[6] However, USIEA 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.[7]

Under Senate Rule 35, a Member or officer who receives payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel must disclose those expenses to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Senators and Officers Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-3), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel 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.**

Consistent with these standards and Committee precedent, and USIEA's factual representations, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from USIEA in connection with this trip, provided that the actual travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, and the travel and all required

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[4] The term "*de minimis*" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 6-8.

[5] *See Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 6-10.

[6] *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."

[7] 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate (Office of Public Records). Necessary expenses may include travel expenses for the spouse or child of a Member if the Member determines that the attendance of the spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

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).[8] 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 11, 2019, setting forth the items to be included in filing that report.

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a Member, on their 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 $480 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.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,

Shannon Hamilton Kopplin
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Member and Officer Privately Sponsored Travel Checklist

[8] 5 U.S.C. § 7342.