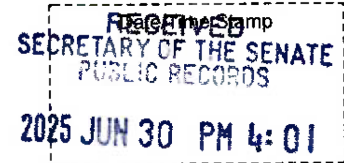


RE-3 Senators and Officers Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 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):

The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional)

Travel Dates:

May 23rd - May 31st

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Katherine Wilkens

Relationship to Traveler:

spouse

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$11,225.02	\$1440	\$988	\$574

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.

6/27/2025

Chris Van Hollen

Date

Printed Name of Senator/Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Van Hollen".

Signature of Senator/Officer

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

flight

\$5509.01 pp

Name change correction from Wilkins to Wilkens

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation:

Yes, we had to change the agenda Thursday May 29th and Friday May 30th. On both days there was severe heat in Seville (100 degrees) and with our group consisting of participants of advanced age, we needed to limit walking outside to various venues and activities. Additionally, on Thursday May 29th, the bus from Málaga had a delayed departure and subsequently arrived late to Seville, and it was no longer feasible to host pre dinner remarks.

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation:

May 27 - Name change correction from Wilkins to Wilkens.
Original tickets: \$5267.21pp refunded.
New tickets: \$5509.01pp charged.



**CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRAM**
aspen institute

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen

**U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515-0306**

Dear Senator Van Hollen,

I would like to invite you and Katherine to our bipartisan, bicameral congressional conference on ***AI and America's Place in the World*** in **Seville and Malaga, Spain, May 26-31, 2025**, including travel dates. Please get back to us with your interest to attend the conference **by COB Friday, January 31, 2025**. These conference spots fill up quickly, so please RSVP as soon as possible. This invitation does not guarantee your participation in the conference.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become central to all aspects of U.S. geopolitical security – from access to computers, trade, competition with China and other global actors, cybersecurity, and the future of warfare. Rapid digitalization and development of technology pose significant opportunities and challenges for the U.S. and our economic and strategic security. Members of Congress will engage in round-table discussions and informal conversations with invited experts to better understand: (1) advances in artificial intelligence and how AI affects the security of US business and infrastructure; (2) regulatory options and trade-offs; and (3) what steps should be taken to pioneer frameworks to advance American vitality and security. Members will have a unique opportunity to focus on AI and holistically think about their role in advancing and gauging America's tech innovation.

Conference attendance is by invitation only. No outside observers, no lobbyists, no congressional staff, and no media are allowed to participate. All conference sessions are off-the-record. No foreign governments are accepted to fund the Aspen Institute Congressional Program. As required by the Senate and House ethics rules, we will provide congressional participants with ethics private sponsor forms completed and signed.

Travel expenses, including business class airfare, meals, and lodging will be paid for by the Aspen Institute; no expenses for entertainment or recreation are paid for in compliance with ethics rules.

The Congressional Program is part of the Aspen Institute, Inc. a nonprofit organization founded in 1949. The Congressional Program was created to promote leadership on public policy by bringing legislators together from both political parties with internationally renowned scholars for high level discussions and analysis. Since our program's inception, more than 598 members of Congress have participated in our 160 domestic and international conferences.

We hope you can join us for this important conference.

Sincerely,

Charlie Dent

Charles W. Dent
Former Member, U.S. Congress (PA-15th, 2005-2018)
Vice President and Executive Director
Aspen Institute Congressional Program
2300 N Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20037
Mobile: (484) 553-1837

Grantmaking Organization Certification Form

Instructions: If a sponsor receives funds from a grantmaking organization, the sponsor must disclose this on the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and the grantmaking organization must complete the *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form*. The completed *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form* must be submitted to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics by the trip sponsor at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date.

Grantmaking Organization: Center for Responsible Innovation

Private Sponsor: Aspen Institute Congressional Program

Trip Name: AI and America's Place in the World

Travel Date(s): May 26-31, 2025

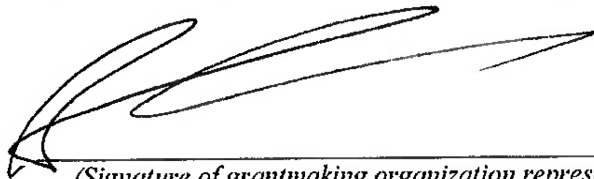
Destination(s): Málaga and Seville, Spain

In compliance with the *Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel*, I certify the following:

- ☒ The grantmaking organization is a § 501(c)(3) organization.
- ☒ The grantmaking organization is not a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or foreign agent, nor an entity that retains or employs a lobbyist or foreign agent.
- ☒ The grantmaking organization provides funds under an established grant program, or in a manner that is otherwise consistent with the mission and practices of the organization.
- ☒ The grantmaking organization is not involved, directly or indirectly, in organizing and conducting the trip. This includes selecting participants for a trip.
- ☒ The grantmaking organization does not directly pay or reimburse travel expenses for any Senate Member, officer, or employee.

Brad Carson

(Printed name of grantmaking organization representative)



(Signature of grantmaking organization representative)

President

(Title)

4/15/25

(Date)

**Senate Invitees – Aspen Institute Congressional Program
Spain Conference – May 36th-31st**

Sen. Dick Durbin, Illinois
Sen. Martin Heinrich, New Mexico
Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Maryland



CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM

aspen institute

AI and America's Place in the World

May 26-31, 2025 | Málaga and Seville, Spain

AGENDA¹

FRIDAY MAY 23:

Sen. Van Hollen and Katherine Wilkins depart IAD at 10:20 PM on flight TP 0234

SATURDAY MAY 24:

Sen. Van Hollen and Katherine Wilkins arrive at AGP at 2:40 PM on TP 1136, beginning travel pre-conference at personal expense

MONDAY, May 26:

U.S. participants depart the U.S. throughout the day.

TUESDAY, May 27 (Overnight in Málaga):

U.S. participants arrive in Spain throughout the day

3:00 PM Sen. Van Hollen and Katherine Wilkins arrive at Palacio Solecio Hotel and check in

¹ Congressional Program Executive Director Charlie Dent moderates the discussion sessions, recognizes members of Congress who have questions, and is assisted by a timekeeper to ensure the conversation is quick paced and every member of Congress has an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the issues.

6 – 7 PM: Pre-Dinner Fireside Chat:***The Geopolitics of AI: Overview***

AI is not just a transformative technology—it is a strategic asset reshaping the balance of global power. This opening session will provide a high-level overview of the geopolitical dimensions of AI, from national security and economic advantage to values-based competition over how the technology is governed and deployed. Our opening speakers will assess the AI strategies of major powers, the global race for talent and computers, and the emerging fault lines between democratic and authoritarian approaches to AI development.

Speakers:

Vilas Dhar, *President, McGovern Foundation*

Eva Maydell, *Member, European Parliament*

Vivian Schiller, *Executive Director, Aspen Digital* (moderator)

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner, Gallo Ronco

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on the geopolitics of AI.

WEDNESDAY, May 28 (Overnight in Málaga):**7 – 8:45 AM: Breakfast available to all participants****Roundtables: Fundación Unicaja****9 – 9:15 AM: Introduction and Framework of the Conference**

This conference is organized into roundtable conversations, working lunches, and pre-dinner remarks. This segment will highlight how the conference will be conducted, how those with questions will be recognized, and how responses will be timed to allow for as much engagement as possible.

Speaker:

Charlie Dent, *Vice President, Aspen Institute;*
Executive Director, Congressional Program

9:15 – 11 AM: Roundtable Discussion:***Global Competition: AI and the Battle for Technological Leadership***

AI has become central to geopolitical, strategic and security competition. This session examines how different actors—China, the Gulf States, Europe, and Africa—are approaching and developing AI tools and the infrastructure to adopt them for economic growth, national security, and political influence. Panelists will explore China’s state-driven AI strategy, the Gulf’s heavy investment in AI infrastructure, Europe’s focus on regulation, and Africa’s emerging role in AI adoption. The discussion will also address critical pressure points, including export controls, semiconductor supply chains, and the policy levers the U.S. can use to maintain its technological edge.

Speakers will address the following questions:

- How does China’s centralized, state-driven approach to AI development compare to the U.S.’s more decentralized, private-sector-led model?
- How are the Gulf States leveraging AI investment as a geopolitical tool, and what are the implications for U.S. interests?
- Does Europe’s strong regulatory stance on AI hinder its competitiveness in the global AI race, or will the so-called “Brussels effect” create a framework that others will eventually follow?
- What role does Africa play in the AI landscape, and how should the U.S. engage with emerging AI markets on the continent?
- How effective are current U.S. export controls on AI-related technologies, and what additional steps should be taken to secure semiconductor supply chains?

Speakers:

Kayla Blomquist, *Director, Oxford China Policy Lab*

Klon Kitchen, *Managing Director, Beacon Global Strategies*

11 – 11:15 AM: Break

11:15 AM – 1 PM: Roundtable Discussion:

Economic, Jobs, and Labor Impact

AI is already reshaping the U.S. economy—while it is increasing productivity and restructuring entire sectors, it is raising difficult questions about the future of work for U.S. workers and companies. This discussion will explore how AI is likely to affect labor markets in both the short and long term, including sectoral job displacement, wage pressure, and new opportunities for growth and investment in the U.S. and globally. It will also address how policymakers can balance innovation with workforce resilience through education, training, and targeted investment.

Speakers will address the following questions:

- How does AI change the nature of productivity and economic competitiveness at the national level—and what levers does the federal government have to shape outcomes?
- Which sectors of the U.S. economy and which jobs are most vulnerable to AI-driven disruption, and which are most likely to benefit?
- How can policymakers ensure that workers—particularly in lower-income and rural communities—are not left behind in the AI economy?
- What investments are needed in education, workforce retraining, and apprenticeship to prepare Americans for AI-impacted jobs?

Speakers:

Jack Clark, *Co-Founder, Anthropic*

Jaime Sevilla, *Director, Epoch*

1 – 2 PM: Working Lunch at Patio de Beatas with Remarks: *AI and Global Health*

Speaker:

Mark Dybul, *Co-Director of the Center for Global Health Practice and Impact, Georgetown University Medical Center*

2:30 – 4:00 PM: Site Visit to Google Cyber Security Center in Málaga

Málaga is the European headquarters of Google's cybersecurity network. We will be doing a site visit there on the same day we are discussing cyber security threats in the region and US challenges more broadly. Learning from our European colleagues about the current day risks, opportunities and challenges associated with cyber security and ensuring US private sector leadership will be a core theme of the day. Jose Luis Ugía, Developer Relations for Google Spain at the Málaga Center will be our guide.

4-6 PM: Individual Discussions

Scholars will be available to meet individually with members of Congress for in-depth discussion of ideas raised in the morning sessions, including Jack Clark, Jamie Sevilla, Kayla Bloomquist and Klon Kitchen.

6:30 – 7:30 PM: Pre-Dinner Remarks: *Software Singularity*

Jack Clark, Co-Founder of Anthropic, will deliver thought-provoking pre-dinner remarks examining Software Singularity and its critical implications for technology policy, governance, and regulatory approaches in an AI-accelerated world.

Speaker:

Jack Clark, *Co-Founder, Anthropic*

7:30 – 10 PM: Working Dinner at Picasso Museum

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on global AI competition and AI's economic impacts.

THURSDAY, May 29 (Overnight in Seville):**6:30 – 7:45 AM: Breakfast, check out of Palacio Solecio Hotel****Roundtables: Fundación Unicaja****8 – 10 AM: Roundtable Discussion:*****AI and Cybersecurity: Defending Against Next Generation Threats***

Increasingly powerful AI is reshaping both cyber defense and cyber offense. AI is being used to detect threats, automate security responses, and fortify digital infrastructure—but it is also enabling more sophisticated cyberattacks, including AI-generated phishing, deepfake deception, and turbocharged hacking. This session explores the evolving cybersecurity landscape, the risks AI poses to national security and critical infrastructure, and the policies and technologies needed to protect against AI-driven threats. Panelists will also discuss how governments and private-sector leaders can collaborate to ensure AI enhances, rather than undermines, cybersecurity.

Speakers will address the following questions:

- How is AI transforming both cyber offense and defense, and what emerging threats should we be most concerned about?
- What role should the federal government play in regulating AI-driven cybersecurity threats, particularly regarding critical infrastructure?
- How can AI be used to detect and mitigate threats faster than traditional cybersecurity methods?
- What are the risks of AI-generated misinformation and deepfakes in cyber warfare and political interference?
- How should businesses and governments collaborate to create global norms for AI security while maintaining competitive advantages?

Speakers:

Rob Joyce, *Founder, Joyce Cyber; former NSA Director of Cybersecurity*

Ciaran Martin, *Founding CEO of the National Cyber Security Centre and Professor, University of Oxford*

10 – 10:15 AM: Break

10:15 AM – 12 PM: Roundtable Discussion:

The Race for Compute and Energy Demands from AI Systems

AI's rapid advancement is driving an unprecedented surge in energy consumption, from data centers powering large-scale machine learning models to edge computing and real-time AI applications. As AI adoption grows, so does its strain on power grids, raising concerns about sustainability, efficiency, and long-term energy security. We will explore the energy demands of AI systems today and in the future, strategies for improving efficiency, and the role of renewable energy and grid modernization in supporting AI's expansion, including how policymakers, utilities, and tech companies can address the intersection of AI growth and energy sustainability.

Speakers will address the following questions:

- What is current AI energy demand and how is it expected to grow in the next decade?
- What technological advancements, such as more efficient chips and cooling systems, can help mitigate AI's energy impact?
- What role should renewable energy play in meeting AI's growing electricity needs, and is it scaling fast enough?
- How should governments and regulators think about the balance between energy efficiency standards for AI infrastructure and promoting rapid innovation?

Speakers:

Brad Carson, *Co-Founder and President, Center for Responsible Innovation*

Divyansh Kaushik, *Vice President, Beacon Global Strategies*

Owen Larter, *Senior Director, Frontier Policy and Public Affairs, Google DeepMind*

12:30 PM: Pickup Box Lunch for the Road

1:00 – 4:00 PM: Depart Malaga for Seville Via Bus

4:00 PM: Arrive in Seville, check into Querecia de Seville Hotel

5:00 -7:00 PM: Individual Discussions

Scholars will be available to meet individually with members of Congress for in-depth discussion of ideas raised in the morning sessions, including Brad Carson, Divyansh Kaushik, Owen Larter, Chris Krebs and Vivian Schiller.

7 – 9 PM: Working Dinner, Eneko Basque

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on AI and cybersecurity, AI-driven energy demands, and AI-generated information manipulation.

FRIDAY, May 30 (Overnight in Seville):

7 – 8:45 AM: Breakfast

Roundables: Metropol Parasol

9 – 11 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

AI and Military Power: The Future of Warfare and National Security

AI is transforming military strategy and tactics, with impacts on everything from autonomous weapons to war gaming, intelligence analysis and battlefield decision-making. States are racing to integrate AI into defense systems, raising critical questions about strategic stability, human oversight, and the ethics of autonomous warfare. Panelists will cover how AI is reshaping military power, the risks of an AI arms race, and how the U.S. can maintain its technological edge while ensuring responsible AI deployment. Panelists will also discuss the role of AI in cyber warfare, intelligence gathering, and threat deterrence.

Speakers will address the following questions:

- How is AI changing military strategy, and what capabilities will define the next era of warfare?
- Should the U.S. pursue fully autonomous weapons systems, or is human oversight essential for ethical and strategic reasons?
- What are the risks of an AI arms race, and how can global powers establish guardrails to prevent escalation?
- How should AI be integrated into intelligence and surveillance to enhance national security while protecting civil liberties?

- What role does the private sector play in military AI development, and how should government manage public-private partnerships in defense tech?

Speakers:

Kenneth Payne, *Professor of Strategy, King's College London*

Matt Turpin, *Senior Advisor, Palantir Technologies*

11 – 11:15 AM: Break**11:15 AM – 12:45 PM: Policy Reflections for Members of Congress**

This time is set aside for members of Congress to reflect on what they have learned during the conference and discuss their views on implications for U.S. policy. Drawing on the full range of conversations throughout the week, members will seek to identify for each other the most promising takeaways for the United States policy process, with a special focus on opportunities for bipartisan cooperation. This is a members-only conversation.

1 – 2 PM: Working Lunch

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars on AI, military power, and national security.

3 – 4:30 PM: Historical Site Visit, Alcázar (Optional)

Participants will be taken on a guided tour of the Real Alcázar of Seville, a historic Royal Palace formerly the site of the Islamic era citadel of the city.

5:00 -7:00 PM: Individual Discussions

Scholars will be available to meet individually with members of Congress for in-depth discussion of ideas raised in the morning sessions, including Kenneth Payne and Matt Turpin.

7 – 8 PM: Pre-Dinner Fireside Chat: *Final Reflections and Looking Over the Horizon*

In this concluding session, Dr. Brad Carson will synthesize key insights from the week's discussions and reflect on what they mean for U.S. global leadership in an era shaped by AI and geostrategic competition. Drawing on his experience in academia and public service, Dr. Carson will outline strategic takeaways from the central debates and offer his own forward-looking recommendations for U.S. policymakers. Sébastien Krier from Google DeepMind will discuss the next generation of AI systems.

Speakers:

Brad Carson, *Co-Founder and President, Center for Responsible Innovation*
Sébastien Krier, *Manager, Policy Development and Strategy, Google DeepMind*

8 – 9:30 PM: Working Dinner, Casa Roman

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussions will focus on AI policy reflections from the week.

SATURDAY, May 31:

Check out of Querencia de Seville Hotel

Sen. Van Hollen and Katherine Wilkins depart SVQ at 12:15 PM on flight LH 1141

Sen. Van Hollen and Katherine Wilkins arrive at IAD at 8:05 PM on flight UA 0933