RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp
RECEIVED
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PUBLIC RECORDS
2026 MAR 17 PM 1:41

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):
Hoover Institution, Stanford University

Travel Dates:
02/19/2026 to 02/22/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$613.16	$576.00	$174.00	$0.00

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

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, 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.

March 17, 2026
Date

Vetri Velan
Printed Name of Traveler


Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

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

03/17/2026
Date


Signature of Supervising 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
Transportation	$613.16	Final, total transportation costs incurred.
Meals	$174.00	Final, total meal costs incurred.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

● Yes ○ No

Explanation: Final program agenda to reflect last minute changes to session order and/or session speakers. Hours of programming were unaffected, changes were a result of speaker cancellation or change in availability.

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

○ Yes ● No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.

Velan, Vetri (Coons)

From: Sarah Moront <smoront@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2025 9:00 AM
To: Velan, Vetri (Coons)
Subject: Selection Decision: Hoover Institution Bio-Strategies & Leadership Congressional Leadership Accelerator for Biotechnology

Dear Vetri,

I am pleased to inform you that you have been accepted to participate in the Congressional Leadership Accelerator for Biotechnology (CLAB) hosted by the Hoover Institution's Bio-Strategies & Leadership program. CLAB will take place on Stanford's campus in California on February 19 and 20, 2026, with travel the evening of February 18 and the morning of February 21.

As a participant you will receive round-trip airfare, ground transportation in California, lodging near Stanford's campus, and meals that are part of the program.

To proceed, please confirm your acceptance no later than Thursday, December 18, 2025, by completing this registration form. Due to ethics regulations, to maintain your spot, it is imperative that you complete this form on time. Failure to do so could result in forfeiture of your spot.

On the registration form you will also find additional information regarding airfare, attire, and ground transportation. A full briefing packet will be sent closer to the program dates.

Upon completion of the form, we'll provide instructions for booking your flights and share pre-travel ethics information for the trip. For your planning purposes, I have listed the recommended flights below. Should you have special travel needs, please reach out to me at your earliest convenience.

Recommended Flights
Wednesday, February 18 | DCA to SFO United Airlines Flight 368
5:50pm - 9:19pm

Saturday, February 21 | SFO to DCA United Airlines Flight 1678
8:30am - 4:43pm

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to seeing you at Hoover in the new year.

Best,
Sarah

Sarah Moront
Senior Research Program Manager
Bio-Strategies & Leadership
Hoover Institution | Stanford University

RE-1 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.

Name of Traveler:
Vetri Velan

Employing Office/Committee:
COONS, CHRIS

Private Sponsor(s):
Hoover Institution, Stanford University

Destination(s):
Stanford, California

Travel Dates:
02/19/2026 to 02/22/2026
NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

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

This event covers topics focused on biotechnology: innovation, biological security, economic security, and workforce development. All of these are part of my legislative portfolio--for example, I lead our office's efforts on the Biomanufacturing Excellence Act, which would strengthen biopharmaceutical manufacturing. Also, Delaware is a biotech hub, so biotech policy is relevant to my boss's constituents.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?
No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
N/A

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

Jan 12, 2026
Date

Vetri Velan
Signature of Employee

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

I Senator Christopher A. Coons
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize Vetri Velan
(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)

01/13/2026
Date

Chris Coons
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

Hoover Institution, Stanford University: February 2026 Congressional Leadership Accelerator For Biotechnology

Vetri Velan

Title:
Legislative Fellow

Employing Office/Committee:
COONS, CHRIS

Duty Station:
None

Destination(s):

Stanford, California

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

This event covers topics focused on biotechnology: innovation, biological security, economic security, and workforce development. All of these are part of my legislative portfolio--for example, I lead our office's efforts on the Biomanufacturing Excellence Act, which would strengthen biopharmaceutical manufacturing. Also, Delaware is a biotech hub, so biotech policy is relevant to my boss's constituents.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
Hoover Institution, Stanford University

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Public Charity

Address 2 (Optional)
SUITE 500

Phone Number
2027603200

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

Address
1399 New York Ave NW

City, State Zip
Washington, District Of Columbia 20005 United States

Organization URL
www.hoover.org

History of Congressional Travel

This will be the 2nd Biotechnology-focused Program for Congressional staff organized by the Hoover Institution, Stanford University and will be similar in format to the October 2024 Bio-Securities and Leadership program and previous Congressional Fellowship Programs, which has convened 17 trips for Congressional Staff. The most recent trip being the August 2025 Congressional Fellowship Program.

Educational Activities

The Hoover Institution, Stanford University regularly sponsors educational policy panels and round tables for think tank scholars, journalists, Congressional staff, government officials, academics and the public, and hosts programs and events based on their research for Stanford students and the public to attend.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *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: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ✓ 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.

Comments

None Entered

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

An intensive program for Congressional staff which consists of two full days of seminars, lab visits, and presentations at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. The Hoover Institution, Stanford University solely planned all aspects of the trip including topics discussed, travel/accommodation logistics, and required paperwork. Hoover Institution staff will also accompany Congressional staff for ground transportation on programming days and manage logistics for the duration of the trip.

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

Stanford University is an institution of higher education which seeks to advance knowledge, stimulate creativity and solve real-world problems. As part of the University, The Hoover Institution seeks to improve the human condition by advancing ideas and prosperity while securing and safeguarding peace through world renowned scholars, library, and archives. This program relates to both missions by sharing Hoover Institution research with Congress and its staff to contribute to society.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

● Yes ○ No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

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

● 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

● The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

● 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

● 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.

○ 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

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

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

Invitees

- Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
02/18/2026 @ 08:50 PM

Trip End Date/Time:
02/21/2026 @ 07:42 PM

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

○ Yes ● No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $1,500.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$1,000.00
Note Round trip airfare from DC to CA		
Ground Transportation	N/A	$500.00
Note Uber vouchers provided for ground transportation between the airport, hotel, and campus for the program.		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $576.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
02/18/2026	02/21/2026	The Graduate Hotel Palo Alto	Stanford	California	United States	3	$192.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $184.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
02/19/2026	$23.00	$26.00	$38.00	$5.00	**$92.00**	Stanford	California	United States	No
02/20/2026	$23.00	$26.00	$38.00	$5.00	**$92.00**	Stanford	California	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $0.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
There are no miscellaneous expenses.		

Additional Attachments

Document Name

There are no additional attachments.

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: February 2026 Congressional Leadership Accelerator For B

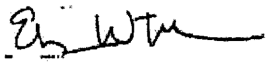
Travel Date(s): February 18-21, 2026

Travel Destination(s): Palo Alto, California

Sponsor: Hoover Institution, Stanford University

Eryn Witcher Tillman — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Associate Director — *(title)*



(signature of sponsor representative)

0109/2026 — *(date)*

HOOVER INSTITUTION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY FEBRUARY 2026
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACCELERATOR FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
SENATE INVITEES

Shane Reader	**AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow** Office of Senator Tim Kaine
Lily Cross	**Legislative Correspondent** Office of Senator Todd Young
Valli Nivethitha Sanmugalingam	**Professional Staff Member** Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Emmett Jamieson	**Legislative Aide** Office of Senator Eric Schmitt
Vetri Velan	**Legislative Fellow** Office of Senator Chris Coons
Marcos Ibarra	**National Security Advisor** Office of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
John Daniel Pinegar	**Professional Staff Member** Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Abigail Lancaster	**Legislative Assistant** Office of Senator Ted Budd (R-NC)
Victoria Anderson	**Legislative Assistant** Office of Senator Tom Cotton

Ryan Patrick Orr	**Legislative Correspondent** Office of Senator Bill Cassidy
Yara Doumit	**Policy Aide** Office of Senator Chuck Schumer
Katelyn Wall	**Legislative Correspondent** Office of Senator Marsha Blackburn

AGENDA WITH TRAVEL INFORMATION - FEBRUARY 2026 CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACCELERATOR FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
HOOVER INSTITUTION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

All times listed in local time unless otherwise indicated.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

5:50PM ET	**Depart DCA via United Airlines flight 368**
9:19PM	**Arrive at SFO**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

7:45AM	**Group shuttle departs Graduate Hotel en route to Stanford University**
8:00AM - 8:30AM	**Networking Breakfast** Participants will have the opportunity to learn about BSL research initiatives and share their priorities in this area with fellow attendees and speakers.
8:30AM - 8:45AM	**Introductions and Logistics** Hoover Bio-Strategies & Leadership staff will welcome attendees and provide essential logistics information for the conference.
8:45AM - 9:15AM	**Biotechnology 101** Alex Engel, lecturer in bioengineering at Stanford University, will introduce core principles of biology and biotechnology, offering participants a clear and accessible foundation for the discussions and sessions that follow. This overview will equip attendees with shared concepts and terminology essential for engaging with the next two days of programming.
9:15AM - 10:00AM	**Biology as a Strategic Domain** Drew Endy, Hoover Institution Science and Senior Fellow and Martin Family University Fellow in Undergraduate Education (Bioengineering), will provide an introduction to emerging biotechnologies in the 21st century and their associated potential strategic impacts and ramifications, including the critical role of biotechnology in democracy, competitiveness, flourishing, and security for the U.S. and its allies.
10:30AM - 11:15AM	**Biotechnology & National Security**

Condoleezza Rice, Tad and Dianne Taube Director and Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy, will examine biotechnology through the lens of national security.

11:15AM - 12:00PM **Biosecurity Really**

Rear Admiral Ken Bernard will moderate a discussion on biosecurity with Milana Trounce, Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at Stanford University; Erik Malmstrom, CEO of SafeTraces; and Royal Hansen, Vice President of Security at Google. The conversation will examine current and emerging biosecurity threats, underscore why biosecurity must be treated as a core national security priority, and explore key findings and insights from the *Biosecurity Really* report.

12:00PM - 1:30PM **Lunch**

1:30PM - 2:15PM **Biotechnology & Artificial Intelligence**

Hoover Distinguished Visiting Fellow Mike Kuiken will moderate a discussion with Samuel King and Brian Hie of the Arc Institute, and James Zou, Assistant Professor at Stanford University, on the emerging opportunities and challenges at the intersection of artificial intelligence and biology. Drawing on their respective research, the speakers will share insights into how AI is advancing biological discovery while also highlighting the scientific and practical challenges that accompany this rapidly evolving field.

2:45PM - 3:00PM **Walk to Hill-Maini Lab**

3:00PM - 4:00PM **Tour of Hill-Maini Lab**

Vayu Hill-Maini, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering at Stanford University, will lead participants on a tour of his laboratory, offering an inside look at his current research on fungal systems and their potential to address pressing global challenges.

4:00PM - 4:15PM **Walk to Shultz Building**

4:15PM - 5:00PM **How to Think About China**

Chris Li, Technology and Geopolitics Fellow at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, will moderate a discussion on how to assess China in the context of biotechnology with Dan Wang, Hoover Research Fellow, and Josh Hodges, Hoover Visiting Fellow. Drawing on the speakers' research and professional experience, the panel will provide an overview of the current state of U.S.–China competition in biotechnology and examine areas of both competition and potential cooperation.

5:00PM - 8:00PM	**Reception and Dinner: Voices from Industry & Beyond** A panel of entrepreneurs, founders, industry leaders, and other practitioners (speakers to be confirmed) will discuss the challenges and opportunities shaping the biotechnology marketplace. Drawing on their professional experience, participants will offer perspectives on innovation, commercialization, and the evolving dynamics of the biotech industry.
8:00PM	**Group shuttle departs Stanford University en route to the Graduate Hotel**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:45AM	**Group shuttle departs the Graduate Hotel en route to Stanford University**
8:00AM - 8:30AM	**Networking Breakfast** Participants will have the opportunity to learn about BSL research initiatives and share their priorities in this area with fellow attendees and speakers.
8:30AM - 9:15AM	**The Biotic Future** Drew Endy and Mike Jewett, Professor of Bioengineering at Stanford University, will preview emerging research on what biology may be able to deliver by 2050, and explore the potential economic and political implications of these developments.
9:15AM - 10:00AM	**Education & the Workforce** Chris Emig, Director of iGEM at Stanford University, and Janet Standeven, Director of the Frugal Science Academy at the Georgia Institute of Technology, will discuss the current state of biotechnology education and the U.S. workforce. The conversation will examine challenges and opportunities across the education-to-workforce pipeline and explore approaches to advancing bioliteracy for the next generation.
10:00AM - 10:30AM	**Group shuttle to Antheia** *Address: 1430 O'Brien Drive, Suite A; Menlo Park, CA 94025*
10:30AM - 11:30AM	**Tour Antheia** Staff at Antheia—a Silicon Valley company leveraging biology and advanced manufacturing to produce biosynthetic key starting materials and active pharmaceutical ingredients for essential medicines—will lead

	participants on a tour of their laboratory and share insights from their ongoing research.
11:30AM - 12:00PM	**Group shuttle from Antheia to Shultz Building**
12:00PM - 1:00PM	**Lunch**
1:00PM - 1:45PM	**Why Building DNA is Important** Drew Endy will moderate a conversation with Kaihang Wang, Assistant Professor of Biology and Biological Engineering at Caltech, and James Diggans, Vice President of Policy and Biosecurity at Twist Bioscience, on the importance of building DNA and its implications for human flourishing and security.
1:45PM - 2:15PM	**Why Building Cells is Important** Kate Adamala, Associate Professor of Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development at the University of Minnesota, and Akshay Maheshwari, co-founder and CEO of b.next, will share their research on constructing cells from scratch and examine the implications of this work for the U.S. and the world.
2:45PM - 3:30PM	**Strategic Frameworks for Biotechnology** Mike Kuiken will lead participants in a session exploring policy approaches to pressing biotechnology challenges, with a focus on metrology, infrastructure, and investment priorities.
3:30PM - 4:15PM	**Strategic Frameworks for Biosecurity** Hoover Visiting Fellow Emily Clise Tully will guide participants through a discussion of policy approaches to contemporary biosecurity challenges. The session will examine ways to strengthen intelligence capabilities, enhance security systems, and reduce the risk of future threats.
4:15PM - 5:00PM	**Closing Reflections** Drew Endy and Hoover staff will lead a conversation with participants to reflect on key lessons from the previous two days of programming. The session will conclude with closing remarks from Drew Endy.
5:00PM - 8:00PM	**Farewell Reception & Dinner**
8:00PM	**Group shuttle departs Stanford University en route to the Graduate Hotel**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:30AM	**Depart SFO via United Airlines flight 1678**
4:42PM ET	**Arrive at DCA**