

December 4, 2023

Christopher A. Coons, *Chairman*  
James Lankford, *Vice Chairman*  
220 Hart Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Coons and Lankford:

We are writing today to express our concern and ask the committee to open an investigation of Senator Kyrsten Sinema's long-standing and ongoing failure to fully complete the financial disclosure reports as required by the Ethics in Government Act (EIGA). Specifically, Senator Sinema is failing to disclose assets, income, and other required disclosures related to Dr. Lindsay Buckman, who then Representative Sinema treated as a spouse for the purposes of officially related travel in 2013 and with whom she still lives. Further, Senator Sinema's disclosure has been so sparse as to strain credibility, failing to list items such as checking accounts or a mortgage. When coupled with her persistent effort to hide what she regards as marital assets, investigation by the Ethics Committee of Senator Sinema's filings is required.

In April 2013, then-Representative Sinema traveled to Israel on privately funded travel. Dr. Lyndsey Buckman accompanied then-Representative Sinema on the trip and Dr. Buckman's costs were paid for by the sponsor. The House Committee on Ethics stated, "Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your partner's proposed trip to Israel, scheduled for August 4 to 12, 2013, sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation." Guidance from the House Committee notes that, "You may bring one accompanying relative at the trip sponsor's expense if that relative was invited by the Primary Trip Sponsor. Accompanying relatives are over the age of 18 and Spouses, Children or step-children, Parents or step-parents, Siblings or half-siblings, Grandchildren, [or] Mother- or father-in-law. If you would like to bring anyone else at the trip sponsor's expense, you must write to the Committee for formal approval." Since "Partner" is not one of the categories listed, we are led to believe that Representative Sinema petitioned the Committee to allow Dr. Buckman to travel with her because Representative Sinema believed Dr. Buckman was a spouse in all but title.

While Senator Sinema appears to believe Dr. Buckman is just like a spouse for the purpose of \$7737.15 junkets to Israel funded by outside groups, she does not seem to believe that the spousal designation applies for the purposes of financial disclosures. The spousal disclosures on financial disclosure forms are required to disclose and prevent conflicts of interest. The Ethics in Government Act has always understood that conflicts related to holdings of a spouse should be imputed to the spouse who is a Member.



The result of Senator Sinema's failure to disclose Dr. Buckman's finances is a financial disclosure form that strains credulity. Senator Sinema's disclosure includes barely any assets, despite her having held a Congressional salary of \$174,000 for over a decade. Senator Sinema does not disclose a home mortgage or a checking account. Unless Senator Sinema is the worst personal financial manager in America, and she has less than \$5000 in her checking account (the disclosure threshold), her filings showing she has no assets other than two government retirement plans with the State of Arizona, is not reasonable. It appears that Senator Sinema is not being completely forthright with the American people and is frustrating their ability to exercise oversight over her family's conflicts of interest.

For all these reasons, we urge the committee to immediately open an investigation. We believe this investigation will compel the committee to force Senator Sinema to retroactively amend her returns.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Jones, President

