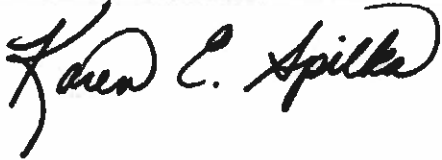


**DISCLOSURE BY ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE  
OF TRAVEL EXPENSES SERVING A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE  
AS REQUIRED BY 930 CMR 5.08(2)(d)2.**

	<b>ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION</b>
Name of elected public employee:	Karen Spilka
Title/ Position	Senate President
Agency/ Department	Massachusetts State Senate
Agency address:	State House 24 Beacon Street, Room 332 Boston, MA 02333
Office phone:	(617) 722-1500
Office e-mail:	Karen.Spilka@masenate.gov
<b>Write an X to confirm each statement.</b>	<p>I am filing this disclosure because:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am going to engage in an activity that serves a legitimate public purpose, i.e., it is intended to promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; and</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A non-public entity (but not a lobbyist) has offered to reimburse, waive or pay travel expenses and costs worth more than \$50.</p>
	<b>ACTIVITY THAT SERVES A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE</b>
Describe the activity which is the reason for traveling.	I will be traveling to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for meetings that will bring together elected officials from the Massachusetts State Senate with government officials and university and business leaders from the Dominican Republic.
Describe your participation in the activity.	I will be participating in meetings to discuss strengthening political, economic, and cultural ties between Massachusetts and the Dominican Republic. Those meetings will include discussion of the recently enacted Massachusetts law that provides for a licensing pathway for internationally trained physicians, trade and economic development opportunities between the Dominican Republic and Massachusetts, educational partnerships, and other issues of mutual interest between the Dominican Republic and Massachusetts.
Date, time and location of activity.	January 21 – January 25, 2025 Dominican Republic
Please explain how the activity will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality.	Massachusetts is home to a large Dominican American population, and there are significant economic, cultural, legal, and educational issues of mutual interest to the Dominican Republic and Massachusetts. My participation in this trip will inform my work as a policymaker and allow me to better understand and foster the important political, economic, and cultural relationship between the Dominican Republic and Massachusetts. In addition, as a political representative of a district with Dominican-American constituents, my participation in this trip will allow me to gain a better understanding of key issues affecting my constituents and to represent them at the State House.

	<b>TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>
Identify the person or organization that offered to reimburse, waive or pay your travel expenses.	<p>The Dominican Republic Senate (DRS) will be paying for certain meals (as set forth below), as well as in-country ground transportation throughout the trip. In addition, Grupo Rica will be paying for one dinner as listed below.</p> <p>I will be personally paying for the costs of my flights, accommodations, and meals, other than those indicated below.</p>
Address of person or organization.	<p>Dominican Republic Senate Senado de la República Dominicana Av. Jiménez Moya, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic</p> <p>Grupo Rica KM 6 1/2 Autopista Duarte, EN Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic</p>
<b>Provide information in as much detail as possible:</b>	<b><i>Itemization and explanation of amounts offered:</i></b>
Transportation:	<p><i>Air, train, bus, and taxi fare and rental car hire, etc.</i></p> <p>The DRS is covering the cost of in-country ground transportation for the Massachusetts Senate delegation. The per person amount covered by DRS for ground transportation is \$180.</p>
Lodging:	<p><i>Overnight accommodations.</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
Meals:	<p><i>Breakfast, lunch, dinner, special events.</i></p> <p>The DRS is covering the cost of lunch on January 22nd and breakfast on January 23rd for the Massachusetts Senate delegation. The per person amount covered by DRS is \$58.</p> <p>Grupo Rica will be covering the cost of dinner on January 22nd for the Massachusetts Senate delegation. The per person amount covered by Grupo Rica is \$17.</p>
Admission:	<i>Registration, admission, tickets, etc.</i>
Other (please list):	<i>Refreshment, instruction, materials, entertainment, etc.</i>
Total:	<p>DRS: \$ 238.00</p> <p>Grupo Rica: \$ 17.00</p>
Write an X beside any relevant statement.	<p><u>  X  </u> I have attached the relevant itinerary.</p> <p><u>     </u> I have attached the relevant agenda.</p>
<b>For the exemption to apply, check off both statements.</b>	<p>Having disclosed the facts above, I determine that:</p> <p><u>  X  </u> Acceptance of the reimbursement, waiver or payment of travel expenses will serve a legitimate public purpose i.e., it will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; AND</p> <p><u>  X  </u> Such public purpose outweighs any special non-work related benefit to me or to the person providing the reimbursement, waiver or payment.</p>

Employee signature:	
Date:	January 21, 2025

**Attach additional pages if necessary.**

**Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.**

**Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.**

**Elected municipal employee – file with the City Clerk or Town Clerk.**

**Elected regional school committee member – file with the clerk or secretary of the committee.**

**Form revised February, 2012**

## 2025 Senate Visit to the Dominican Republic

### Itinerary

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#### Day 1: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

**ARRIVE BY 2PM JAN 21:** Arrival in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (Flight)

**Transportation:** Shuttle from the airport to Hotel Embajador

**4:00 PM:** Guided tour of the Colonial Zone with Dominican Senator Alexis Victoria Yeb.  
*(to explore the historic heart of Santo Domingo)*

**Dinner:** *(Details TBD)*

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#### DAY 2: Wednesday, January 22, 2025

##### Activities:

**10:00 AM:** Visit to the Dominican Republic Senate Reception by Senate President Ricardo de los Santos. US Ambassador in D.R Patricia Aguilera will attend, with university presidents and representatives. *(Representatives from medical education or medical studies universities to discuss recent Massachusetts law that provides a licensing pathway for internationally trained physicians.).*

**12:00 PM:** Lunch with the Dominican Senate, US Ambassador, and University presidents, and representatives.

**2:30 PM:** Meeting with Dominican Republic Minister of Foreign Affairs, Roberto Álvarez and staff. *To discuss opportunities for collaboration driven by Massachusetts' large Dominican population and its vital role in fostering ties between the two regions. Discussion will focus on strengthening bilateral relations, as well as expanding economic and educational partnerships.*

**4:00 PM:** Visit to Pro Dominicana *(the national center responsible for promoting Dominican exports, investments, and business opportunities worldwide)*. Reception by Director Biviana Riveiro.

**7:00 PM:** Dinner with the Rica Business Group. *(Leader in the Dominican Republic's food and beverage industry specializing in premium dairy and beverage production, embodies innovation and sustainability.) To exchange ideas on sustainable practices, and fostering*

*economic collaboration between the two regions.*

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### **DAY 3: Thursday, January 23, 2025**

#### **Activities:**

**8:30 AM:** Breakfast with the Dominican Republic Industry Association, the National Council of Private Enterprises (AIRD and CONEP), and Carolina Mejía, Mayor of Santo Domingo *The discussion with members of the Massachusetts Senate aims to foster collaboration and strengthen ties between Massachusetts and the Dominican Republic through an exchange of ideas on economic development, innovation, and shared opportunities.*

**12:00 PM:** Interview with “Show de Mediodía” Established in 1977 it is the most popular morning show in the D.R. and it's seen by Dominican Americans in the Commonwealth. MA Senate delegation will participate in this live segment where they will *engage and highlight the strong cultural and economic ties between Massachusetts and the Dominican Republic, and the work that they do in their district to represent the Dominican community.*

**1:30 PM:** Lunch TBD

**2:30 PM:** Shuttle to Punta Cana, La Altagracia

**5:30 PM:**Hotel Check In

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### **DAY 4: Friday, January 24, 2025**

**10:30 AM:** Meeting with Fundación Grupo Puntacana, along with Ramón Antonio Ramíre Mayor of Punta Cana.

- This meeting will provide insights into the Dominican Republic's tourism model and its critical role as the country's most important industry. With Massachusetts as a key source of travelers and investors, local leaders will discuss how it supports their tourism sector and the role investments by Dominican Americans play in driving growth. Attendees will also gain unique insights into the Dominican community in Massachusetts, where ~10% of Dominicans have migrated from Punta Cana, La Altagracia, and maintain strong ties to their home country.
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**DAY 5: Saturday, January 25, 2025: Return Flight:** Departure to Boston, MA, USA.