

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2026

Dear Colleague:

On December 11, 2025, the Committee on Rules and Administration issued the *U.S. Senate Member Protection Regulations*. Since the *Member Protection Regulations* were issued, the Select Committee on Ethics (Ethics Committee) has received inquiries regarding allowable uses of member protection funds for campaign or personal travel expenses. Accordingly, the purpose of this letter is to clarify these provisions and provide more precise guidance to ensure consistent and appropriate application of the regulations in instances of overlapping jurisdiction between the Rules Committee and the Ethics Committee.

Attached are Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that have been updated to supplement this guidance. Specifically, revisions have been made to Question 10 regarding *Personal Security Services* clarifying the circumstances under which a Member can use member protection funds to pay for transportation expenses.

The Rules Committee and the Ethics Committee welcome your questions on this or any other issue. If you have questions not addressed in this letter regarding the *Member Protection Regulations* or the voucher process, please contact the Rules Committee at (202) 224-6352. If you have questions regarding travel expenses for campaign or personal travel using member protection funds, please also contact the Ethics Committee at (202) 224-2981.

Sincerely,



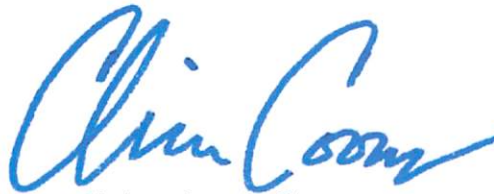
Mitch McConnell
Chair, Committee on Rules and
Administration



James Lankford
Chairman, Select Committee on Ethics



Alex Padilla
Ranking Member, Committee on Rules and
Administration



Christopher A. Coons
Vice Chairman, Select Committee on Ethics

Enclosure: *Member Protection Regulations* FAQs

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING
U.S. SENATE MEMBER PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

PERSONAL SECURITY DEVICES:

(1) Can member security funds be used to purchase, rent, or lease a vehicle for transporting a Member as a personal security device?

No, vehicles are not considered personal security devices as they are not solely for security purposes.

(2) Can member security funds be used to pay for security upgrades to a vehicle?

Yes, so long as they are made to a vehicle owned by, and for the sole use of, the Member. Security upgrades may not be purchased for or made to Senate employee-owned or campaign-owned vehicles.

(3) Would mace or pepper spray be considered a disabling chemical, therefore making them impermissible to classify as a personal security device?

Under the Capitol Police Board's prohibited items list, mace is considered a disabling chemical and therefore is not permissible. Pepper spray is permissible.

(4) What are examples of permissible items that qualify as personal security devices?

Items such as bullet-proof vests, whistles, dash cams, and go-bags with essential and emergency supplies are a few examples of permissible personal security devices.

(5) Can staff use security devices purchased by a Member?

No, security devices purchased with member security funds are for the sole use of the Member.

(6) Can Members purchase oil changes, tire rotation, snow tires, etc. as personal security devices/services?

No, these are considered regular maintenance items and not considered personal security devices/services.

PHYSICAL SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS:

(1) For Members who have previously entered into a residential security agreement with the Senate Sergeant at Arms (SAA), will those monitoring costs be transferred to the office to pay out of the member security funds?

No, the SAA Residential Security System Program is separate from this program.

(2) What are examples of permissible physical security enhancements?

Enhancements such as security gates, bullet proof windows, tinted windows, and security camera systems are a few examples of permissible personal security devices.

PERSONAL SECURITY SERVICES:

(1) Is there an approval process for the security firms hired by an office?

No, the process for hiring security firms is up to the discretion of the Member within the parameters of Section 4.3 of the regulations of this program.

(2) Are Members free to choose any personal security entity?

A Member may choose any personal security entity that meets the member security regulation requirements in Section 4.3.

(3) Can member security funds be used to secure an event where the Member will be appearing (e.g., magnetometers or security personnel to screen the crowd at a town hall)?

Expenses for events can only be reimbursed if the event is the Member's event (e.g., hosting/paying for all expenses).

(4) Can personal security entities drive or provide security to the Member at official events? Political/Campaign events? Personal events?

Yes, so long as the security is provided for the protection of the Member.

(6) Can personal security entities drive mobile offices?

No, mobile offices can only be driven by a Senator or employee of the Senate.

(7) Can member security funds be used for a car service for a Member as a personal security service?

Yes, so long as the service is for the protection of the Member.

(8) Can personal security entities provide security in other states, beyond D.C.?

Yes.

(9) Can member security funds be used to pay for the meals, hotel rooms, incidentals, etc. of the personal security entity when they are traveling with the Member?

If these expenses are included in the personal security services contract, yes, including travel with the Member to a campaign or personal event.

If these expenses are not explicitly included in the contract, then no, and offices may not book travel or per diem expenses on behalf of the personal security entity.

(10) Can member security funds be used to pay for a Member's transportation expenses, such as upgraded commercial flights or train travel, charter flights, etc.?

If the transportation expenses are for an official event, yes, so long as the service is for the protection of the Member.

If the transportation expenses are for a campaign or personal event, the basic transportation expense (e.g., business or economy air fare) must be paid with campaign or personal funds, as appropriate. The portion of the transportation expenses above the basic transportation expense (e.g., first class airfare, car service when Member normally would have driven personal vehicle) that is for the protection of the Member may be paid with member security funds.

Example: Senator plans to attend a campaign event in another city in the home state. Previously, Senator traveled between her home and the other city in commercial economy class. Based on recommendation of a personal security service firm, Senator now will travel in commercial business class with a personal security advisor. Senator should pay for the cost of commercial economy class airfare with principal campaign committee funds. Senator may pay the difference between economy class and business class air travel with personal security funds.

Example: Senator plans to attend a personal dinner with his wife. Previously, Senator would drive himself and his wife in his own car to a personal event. Based on a reconsideration of possible threats, Senator hires a car service to drive him and his wife to the personal dinner. Senator may pay for the car service with personal security funds.

(11) Can member security funds be used to pay for car insurance?

No, car insurance is not considered to be solely for security purposes.

(12) Can a personal security service lease a condo for a Member?

No, a condo is not considered to be solely for security purposes.

(13) Could a Senate employee seek privately-owned vehicle mileage reimbursement for driving the Member as a personal security service?

No, member security funds may not be used to pay employees of the Senate.

(14) Could a Senate employee seek reimbursement for lodging or other per diem expenses as a personal security service if their primary purpose is to provide and coordinate security while the Member is traveling?

No, member security funds may not be used to pay employees of the Senate.

(15) Could member security funds be used to pay a staff member's salary whose job it is to coordinate and/or provide the Member's security?

No, member security funds may not be used to pay employees of the Senate.

(16) Can somebody be both a part-time Senate employee and part-time security detail paid by this money?

No.

(17) Can a Member use their travel card to pay for personal security-related travel expenses for themselves?

Only Citibank travel cards can be used to pay for the member's personal security-related travel.

(18) If a staff member is traveling with a Member, can they also use this account to pay for their travel?

No, member security funds may not be used to pay for staff travel, with the exception of expenses for charter flights purchased for the protection of Member.

(19) Can member security funds be used to purchase airport lounge memberships?

Yes, an airport lounge membership is permitted as a personal security service if it is for the protection of the Member.

(20) Separate from the Rules Committee voucher process, what documentation does Ethics Committee recommend a Senator's office keep when using member security funds?

Should the Ethics Committee need to request information regarding the use of member security funds for campaign or personal travel or events, the Ethics Committee expects a contemporaneous written record of the determination the use of member security funds was recommended for the personal protection of the member including the criteria considered to justify the use of member security funds.

Example: Senator plans to attend a campaign event in another city in the home state. Previously, Senator traveled between her home and the other city in commercial economy class. Based on recommendation of a personal security service firm, Senator now will travel in commercial business class with a personal security advisor. Senator's office should keep a contemporaneous written record of the personal security service firm's recommendation including the criteria the personal security services firm considered in making the security assessment.

Example: Senator plans to attend a personal dinner with his wife. Previously, Senator would drive himself and his wife in his own car to a personal event. Based on a reconsideration of possible threats, Senator hires a car service to drive him and his wife to the personal dinner. Senator's office should keep a contemporaneous written record (i.e. memorandum to office file) of the Senator's determination that a car service is necessary for personal protection including the factors the Senator considered (e.g., recent threats to the office or to other government officials) in making his security assessment.