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H–154 THE CAPITOL

Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–6601

April 15, 2022

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis,

Pursuant to Section 504 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, I am submitting this quarterly report about establishing and maintaining a database of votes taken in Committees.

As mentioned in previous reports, my staff in Legislative Computer Systems have continued discussions on matters that impact Committee operations, including establishing and maintaining a database of votes taken in Committee and improving technology for scheduling Committee meetings. As the Committee is aware, we wish to support these efforts and have begun taking steps to find technical solutions.

My staff are reviewing and analyzing opportunities and scope for Committee votes. We want to build a solution that is based on human-centered design (HCD) principles and provides a central location, such as the U.S. House of Representatives Committee Repository (docs.house.gov/Committee) to record, process, and share voting data that Committee staff enter and verify. Furthermore, we know that across Committees, there are several disparate systems and applications in use. Careful consideration needs to be made regarding what system designs and implementation strategies could work in each Committee's current (or near future) workflow without causing disruption. Project planning, development, and deployment of tools cannot be done without Committee input and buy-in.

Additionally, any system adopted to manage Committee votes must ensure interoperability between several systems across the legislative branch that process, manage, and publish Committee data.

We recommend a comprehensive, holistic approach that addresses all systems used to manage Committee work and is considered in conjunction with other modernization efforts, such as the Legislative Information Management System (LIMS). For example, storing Committee vote data in the new LIMS would allow for efficient exchange with other systems and organizations, such as the Committee Repository, any system(s) managing Committee activity, the Government Publishing Office (if needed for inclusion in Committee reports and other publications), Congress.gov, and various House websites, as well as for making the data publicly available.

As part of the LIMS modernization project, we are making enhancements to applications Clerk staff use to record Committee activities for inclusion in the *Congressional Record*, in the House and Committee Calendars, and on Congress.gov. Building on this work, we would like to take a comprehensive approach to modernizing all Clerk systems related to Committee work, including the Committee Repository, but we are currently limited by staff workloads and prioritization of other projects. Our top priorities are LIMS modernization, electronic submission of legislative documents (eHopper), the pending release of the Comparative Print Suite, maintenance of the Electronic Voting System (EVS), and maintenance and redesign of the lobbying disclosure system.

A second Committee-related recommendation is the creation of a common tool that will assist with scheduling Committee meetings and activities to avoid conflicts and Member double-booking. To assist in our analysis of the potential Committee votes and Committee scheduling tool projects and to gather information and investigate possible solutions, we published two requests for information (RFIs) on January 27, 2022. The response deadline for both RFIs was February 18, 2022, and we are reviewing the responses now. After completing our review, we will study the possible solutions, evaluate our options, and make recommendations for moving forward. The evaluation may include further discussions with possible vendors, explore efforts on our part to design a solution, or culminate in an RFP/RFQ to work with a vendor(s) to implement a solution.

If you or others on the Committee have questions about the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk of the House