

KEVIN F. McCUMBER
DEPUTY CLERK

LISA P. GRANT
DEPUTY CLERK

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

January 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 505 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, I am submitting this quarterly report regarding the assignment of unique identifiers for reports filed by registered lobbyists.

In our initial and subsequent reports, we discussed the challenges of reconciling the names already in the Lobbying Disclosure system and identified two potential solutions for assigning unique identifiers to existing and future registered lobbyists.¹ Legislative Computer Systems (LCS) staff continue to do research and work on both solutions.

As previously reported, on September 28, 2021, we provided a briefing to Appropriations Committee staff to meet the directive in the fiscal year 2022 legislative branch report that required me to brief the Committee on these efforts.² Staff from the Committee on House Administration and the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress also attended.

¹<https://cha.house.gov/sites/democrats.cha.house.gov/files/documents/Assignment%20of%20Unique%20Identifiers%20for%20Reports%20Filed%20by%20Registered%20Lobbyists.pdf>; <https://cha.house.gov/sites/democrats.cha.house.gov/files/Clerk-QR1-LobbyistID.pdf>.

²<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20210629/112879/HMKP-117-AP00-20210629-SD003.pdf>.

During this briefing, LCS staff and I discussed the challenges of managing the 35,000 lobbyist accounts (20,000 active and 15,000 inactive) in the current system. Given the system's age (with components that are more than 15 years old), we recommend a complete redesign. We have also introduced the possibility of using limited personally identifiable information data to address the unique lobbyist identification concerns. A new system will be more accurate, improve user experience, and add other benefits. Additionally, we can improve data accessibility; provide more efficient file processing and automation; and allow for greater transparency to the public.

We have continued our research on similar systems in other jurisdictions in both public and private sectors, and we are evaluating technologies that we can leverage in a redesign effort.

We will continue to update the Committee about our discussions, findings, and recommendations. If you or others on the Committee have questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl L. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clerk of the House