COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MODERNIZATION

FLASH REPORT:

Artificial Intelligence Strategy & Implementation

Produced at the Direction of
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This report is the third in a series of flash reports the Subcommittee is releasing on artificial intelligence (AI) strategy and implementation in the House of Representatives. The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the use of AI technology by House offices and legislative branch agencies, as summarized by their response letters sent to the Committee on House Administration (CHA) this fall.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1) We continue to rely on a list of public AI use case inventories from the <u>Library of Congress (LOC)</u>, the <u>Government Publishing Office (GPO)</u>, and the <u>Clerk</u>.

    a. We strongly encourage the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to publish an AI use case inventory. Taking this step will increase transparency, knowledge sharing, and accountability, while providing member offices with a useful resource.

2) We have seen sustained management attention to establish comprehensive AI-related governance documents in line with the AI framework from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). New, notable efforts include:

    a. GPO has completed a formal AI directive, which was issued internally on October 25, 2023. This directive applies to all business units within GPO. It requires, among other things, that:
        i. AI use aligns with GPO's values and promotes efficiency, productivity, and safety,
        ii. GPO business units follow a review process for acquiring and implementing new AI systems,
        iii. GPO employees use AI systems ethically and responsibly,
        iv. AI use aligns with cybersecurity and privacy policies.

    b. LOC unveiled a new five-year [strategic plan](#) which, for the first time, directly incorporates digital components throughout its

four goals, and in particular focuses on AI use as part of a goal to foster innovation. This new plan emphasizes LOC's digital transformation and maturation. In addition, CHA is pleased that LOC is planning to publish tools and worksheets that can be used to evaluate AI use cases before the end of 2023. This will be a valuable and practical resource for the legislative branch community.

c. We encourage CAO to focus on their review of HISPOL 17 approved vendors and any AI-related HISPUB regulations. These documents govern the House's use of data, and the House's protection of data, in cloud-based and non-House technology. CAO needs to prioritize this review ahead of any longer-term explorations of alternative AI tools and potential LLM pilots.

3) We have seen other relevant actions and efforts that CHA commends, including:

a. **AI advisory committees.** GPO is creating an AI governance advisory committee that will monitor AI use and impact within GPO.

b. **Staff upskilling.** GPO is requiring employees who use AI systems to be trained on relevant portions of the NIST AI Framework and other AI-related federal laws and guidelines. LOC is continuing to work with the Congressional Research Service and the U.S. Copyright Office on new experiments to generate legislative and historic copyright data and is continuing to lead the General Services Administration's (GSA) community of practice sub-group exploring natural language processing vendor analysis. CAO's cybersecurity team is continuing to engage with GSA's AI Center of Excellence and to attend other industry events.

c. **Data governance.** It is well known that data is the foundation for any AI system, particularly when large language models are

used. CHA agrees with the Clerk's [assessment](#) that the House needs a more formal framework related to data governance, one that is elevated away from systems operating procedures and instead views data as a strategic institutional asset. CHA continues to work to implement the Select Committee on Modernization of Congress' recommendation regarding standardized markup, and the Committee encourages continued cross-organizational work on the United States Legislative Markup (USLM) schema. This includes providing ongoing opportunities for civil society to contribute feedback through attendance at the Congressional Data Task Force meetings and on GPO's USLM GitHub repository. The Committee also looks forward to receiving the updates to the USLM roadmap as discussed in prior reports from the Clerk.

Finally, a recent executive order issued by the White House on October 30, 2023 aims to ensure responsible and effective government use of AI. CHA notes that many legislative branch agencies are already showing actions aligned with the spirit of this order, such as establishing key AI officials, establishing governance boards, and following practices derived from the NIST AI Management Framework. CHA will continue to monitor developments which advance the responsible and secure use of generative AI in the legislative branch of the federal government.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

In 2023 generative AI disrupted multiple industries, including government operations, and triggered a global conversation around the social implications of this powerful technology.

AI presents rank-and-file congressional staff with opportunities for dramatically increased efficiency across a wide variety of legislative and operational use cases. At the same time, AI presents the House with unique governance challenges due to the complex legislative data ecosystem and the House's unique legislative, security, and oversight responsibilities. The use of AI raises important questions around institutional guardrails, ethics, and bias.

While innovations continue to be adopted at a rapid pace, transparency is essential to ensuring Congress maintains a detailed understanding of the use of AI in service to the institution and American people.

CHA requested monthly updates from several congressional support entities on:

1. Actions taken to establish or maintain AI Use Case inventories, and to share that information on public websites to increase transparency, knowledge sharing, and accountability.
2. Actions taken to establish comprehensive AI-related governance documents in line with the NIST framework.
3. Any other relevant actions and efforts that may be underway, for example the establishment of AI advisory committees, AI-related pilots, or AI-related upskilling initiatives for staff.

Reports received by the committee are used internally to assist in coordination with congressional oversight.