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

April 17, 2023

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle,

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. This report also discusses other Committee operations matters, including the creation of a tool that will assist with scheduling Committee meetings and activities to avoid conflicts and Member double-booking.

As the Committee is aware from my October 17, 2022, report, we published two requests for information (RFIs) on January 27, 2022, and made recommendations, based on vendor responses and our analysis of them, for improved technical solutions to Committee work that I believe will have a positive impact on Committee and Member staff supporting Committee work. We have continued our engagement with Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Catherine Szpindor on these efforts and look forward to continuing to make progress on Committee voting and scheduling.

Status of Committee Votes as Data

As the Committee is aware, there is a need for a comprehensive, holistic approach that addresses all systems used to manage Committee work in conjunction with other modernization efforts, such as redesigning the Legislative Information Management System (LIMS), and I have recommended the creation of a Committee portal system that would serve as a next-generation platform to manage Committee work.

To move forward, my staff and I met with Committee on House Administration (CHA) staff (March 29, 2023) and House Committee on Appropriations staff (April 6 and 13, 2023). We discussed our proposal to use funds from the fiscal year 2023 Modernization Initiatives Account to work with vendor partners to build the initial infrastructure for a Committee portal and develop the Committee voting module, the first tool to allow for the management of Committee votes as data. The Committee voting module will help Committee staff collect votes electronically and publish votes as data. Working with vendor partners will lessen the impact on existing Clerk projects and ensure that all deliverables conform to House standards and our longer-term goals of creating a modern platform for Committee work and streamlining Committee staff workload and processes.

Status of Committee Scheduling

As the Committee is aware, CAO Catherine Szpindor and her office are leading this effort. Since my last report, Clerk staff supported this work by providing access to published and draft Committee Repository data, collaborating on strategies for outreach to the Committees, and participating in meetings to update CHA staff. The CAO and her staff released the deconflict tool (deconflict.house.gov) to the Committees on April 6 and held training opportunities the week of April 10.

Retirement of the Committee Calendar Application

As the Committee is aware, Clerk staff assisted the CAO and her staff's retirement of the Committee Calendar application. We understand from CAO staff that this retirement is on track, and recently, it was taken offline and is being decommissioned.

Finally, unless otherwise directed, we will submit the next report on Committee votes and related Committee functions on or before October 15, 2023. If you or others on the Committee have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk of the House

cc: The Honorable Mark Amodei, Chairman, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee
The Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Ranking Member, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee
Chief Administrative Officer Catherine Szpindor