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

October 17, 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.

As mentioned in past reports as well as in my April 6, 2022, statement before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, given the lobbying disclosure system's age, we recommend that it be redesigned and built anew.¹ A contemporary system will improve user experience, provide more efficient processing and automation, and allow for greater transparency. It will also permit us to meet the request of assigning unique identifiers to individual lobbyists.

The fiscal year 2023 legislative branch appropriations report posted on June 21, 2022, includes the following language:

Lobbyist Disclosure Unique Identifier: The Committee is aware of ongoing efforts by the Office of the Clerk to generate a Congresswide unique identifier for lobbyists and disclose that identifier to the public as structured data as part of the lobbying disclosure downloads. The Committee agrees with the Clerk's recommendation that a complete

¹ <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP24/20220406/114592/HHRG-117-AP24-Wstate-JohnsonC-20220406.pdf>.

overhaul of the aging system is required, and the recommendation includes \$1,400,000 for the project.²

As I stated in the July 15, 2022, report, I understand from conversations with the Appropriations Committee staff that the \$1,400,000 request will be funded from the Modernization Initiative Account. My office will use these funds for procurement and other related costs, and we may need additional funds to complete this multi-year project.

Since the last report, my staff in the Legislative Computer Systems division continue to research similar systems in other jurisdictions and in both public and private sectors and evaluate technologies that we can leverage in a redesign effort. Additionally, we have had ongoing conversations with General Services Administration staff about the Login.gov identity management service and its processing of personally identifiable information (PII) for unique user identification. These conversations led to proof-of-concept prototyping work, which we will use to determine if Login.gov is a viable solution for verifying and authenticating lobbyist accounts. We are also exploring additional third-party solution providers to assist in processing PII data for lobbyists outside the United States.

Finally, given the expected workload during the transition from the 117th to 118th Congresses, I will not be sending a quarterly report on January 15, 2023. Unless you direct otherwise, we will submit our next report about this project on April 17, 2023.

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, reading "Cheryl L. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk of the House

² <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20220622/114945/HMKP-117-AP00-20220622-SD006.pdf>.