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U.S. House of Representatives
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October 13, 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 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 2022 my staff and I recommended that the current Lobbying Disclosure System 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.

Since the last report, my staff in the Legislative Computer Systems (LCS) and Legislative Resource Center divisions have continued conversations with our Senate counterparts about how to modernize the existing system. Together, we created a joint Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA) Executive Decision Board that meets monthly to review, discuss, and make decisions on system proposals and solutions. Staff from the Secretary of the Senate, Senate Sergeant at Arms, and

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

LCS are drafting an agreement for Senate IT staff to develop a new lobbying disclosure filing module, which leverages their recent modernization efforts on the Senate portion of the Lobbying Disclosure System. Under the draft agreement, the House would assume the role of project sponsor, major stakeholder, and customer with access to all meetings and code repositories and input on requirements, including how filers create and maintain unique lobbyist IDs. We will work to ensure through this House and Senate partnership that all tasks and outcomes are aligned with House and Senate needs.

With regards to funding this work, the Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 2617, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (P.L. 117-328), provided my office with \$1,400,000 from the Modernization Initiatives Account.² The LDA Executive Decision Board is discussing using a portion of the fund for research, development, and implementation of identity verification and possibly account management.

Once the LDA Executive Decision Board comes to a decision on the two items mentioned above, my staff and I will schedule a meeting to brief both this Committee and the Committee on Appropriations.

Finally, unless otherwise directed, we will submit our next report about this project on or before January 15, 2024. If you or others on the Committee have questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kevin F. McCumber
Acting Clerk of the House

cc: The Honorable Mark Amodei, Chairman, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee
The Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Ranking Member, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee

² <https://www.congress.gov/117/crec/2022/12/20/168/198/CREC-2022-12-20-pt2-PgS8553-2.pdf>.