



# DEMAND PROGRESS

## Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (ACMRA)

*H.R. 736 requires that all legally-required, FOIAable agency reports to Congress be available online in a central archive, with some exceptions. These reports contain important information about government activities and access empowers congressional oversight.*

***We urge the House to adopt ACMRA.***

### Access to Agency Reports

- **Agency reports are hard for Congress to find.** No central archive of all reports exists. Agencies and committees can lose or misfile reports. It can be difficult to see what agencies have said to different recipients at different times or whether an agency has met its report submission requirement.
- **Agency reports are hard for the public to access.** While some reports are published on agency websites, citizens must often make Freedom of Information Act requests for access, which are slow to complete and expensive for the government to process. In addition, the public often does not know a report exists.
- **Accessibility fosters accountability.** Online publication allows lawmakers, citizens, journalists, and watchdog groups to see what government does and hold it accountable.

### How ACMRA Works

- **ACMRA creates a central online repository for all reports**, except the reports directed to be withheld by a committee of jurisdiction or portions thereof that are subject to redaction under FOIA. They are published in open formats and available for bulk download.
- **Timely access.** Upon issuance of a report, an agency submits reports to GPO, which publishes them online within 30 days.
- **Keeping track.** GPO publishes when reports are due and when they are submitted by an agency.

### Background

- Congressionally mandated reports include all agency reports required by law to be submitted to Congress.
- ACMRA has broad bipartisan support inside Congress, including 22 bipartisan cosponsors. 30+ good government groups repeatedly have expressed their support.
- The most recent CBO report estimates ACMRA would cost \$400,000 per year. No additional appropriation to GPO is necessary.