

The Honorable Mike Quigley
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC

April 2, 2018

Dear Representative Quigley,

Thank you for your leadership and indefatigable efforts to provide public access to Congressional Research Service reports. When you joined Congress, you spoke to the importance of government transparency and accountability, and put your legislative muscle behind your words. You introduced legislation to make CRS reports available to the public 352 days after you were first elected.

You persisted in advocating for public access, introducing legislation in the 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th and 115th Congresses. But you did more than just introduce legislation— you fought for it, hard. A turning point in the 20-year long fight was when you offered an amendment during the 114th Congress in the Appropriations Committee and demanded a vote. This was the first time the legislation received a vote in any committee. It was a gutsy move. It surfaced allies, put opponents on the record, and set the stage for the House to approve legislation in favor of public access the following Congress.

Within 90 days—180 at the most—the Library of Congress must publish new and updated CRS reports on its website, following the path laid out by your bipartisan, bicameral legislation. This is no less than a transformation of how the public can learn about the important issues before Congress from a non-partisan, expert source. No longer will CRS reports remain the domain of the well-connected and the well-heeled. You made this happen. We cannot thank you enough.

We're not counting the proverbial chickens before they've hatched. We will be watching so see whether the Library meets its deadline and whether the website lives up to its requirements. But we are comforted knowing that you will be watching, too. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

With gratitude and appreciation,

American Association of Law Libraries
American Commitment
American Library Association
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Association of Research Libraries
Center for Media and Democracy
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
Coalition to Reduce Spending

Issue One
Liberty Coalition
National Coalition for History
National LGBTQ Task Force
National Security Archive
National Security Counselors
Niskanen Center
Northern California Association of Law Libraries

Common Cause
Data Coalition
Defending Rights & Dissent
Demand Progress Action
Electronic Privacy Information Center
Free Government Information
Government Accountability Project
Government Information Watch
GovTrack.us
Hesburgh Libraries, University of Notre Dame

Open the Government
Participatory Politics Foundation
Project On Government Oversight
Quorum
R Street Institute
Society of American Archivists
Sunlight Foundation
Taxpayers for Common Sense
The Center for Responsive Politics
Union of Concerned Scientists

Henry Cohen
George Costello, CRS (retired)
Crystal Davidson, King University
Glennon J. Harrison, Ph.D., CRS (retired)
Eileen Heaser
Karen Heil, Middletown Thrall Library
Craig Holman, Public Citizen
W Jackson
Michael A. Keller, Stanford University Libraries
Andrew Lopez, Charles E. Shain Library,
Connecticut College

Jonathan Medalia, CRS (retired)
Heather Durkin Negley
Dr. James Nichol, CRS, Foreign Affairs, Defense
and Trade Division
Betsy Palmer, Lecturer, University of Arizona and
CRS alum
Morton Rosenberg, CRS alum
Marc Rotenberg
Richard Rowberg
Daniel Schuman
Christine Scott