July 29, 2022

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
Chair
House Select Committee on the
Modernization of Congress
164 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable William Timmons
Vice Chair
House Select Committee on the
Modernization of Congress
164 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Kilmer, Vice Chair Timmons, and Members of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress:

We write to thank you for your leadership and efforts to include nearly two-dozen modernization-related items and provisions into the FY 2023 House Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill and Report. Taken together, this year’s appropriations legislation and report lay the groundwork for meaningful improvements and lasting change.

Since the Select Committee first formed, it has shared a mission to foster bipartisan work and collaboration to strengthen Congress’ resources, capabilities, and support systems to better serve the American people. The FY 2023 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill and accompanying report constitute a remarkable step forward in strengthening Congress’s legislative, oversight, and constituent service capacities. These reforms will make the Legislative Branch more open, inclusive, accountable, modern, and responsive.

Thanks to your ongoing efforts, the funding bill increases the Modernization Initiative Account to $10 million for FY 2023, enabling support offices across the House to implement recommendations made by your committee. And throughout its tenure, the Select Committee has called for Congress to take steps to ensure that the institution can attract and retain a diverse and capable workforce. This mission can be seen throughout the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill and report: with increased funding to fairly compensate staff and interns, the enhancement of staff care and benefits, the creation of a House Intern Resource Office, and the expansion of educational opportunities for staff.

We recognize that the Select Committee has made a concerted effort to work collaboratively with civil society to inform and advance its recommendations, and value your partnership in building a stronger democracy that serves all Americans. We are heartened to see the efforts of the Select Committee, the advocacy and expertise of outside congressional experts, and the commitment of House appropriators come together to make the House of Representatives a stronger institution.
We will continue to work together to encourage the Senate to follow the House’s lead in implementing provisions to strengthen Congress. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the legislative process, for your leadership, and for working to strengthen our political system.

Sincerely yours,
Bipartisan Policy Center Action
Casey Burgat, George Washington University, Graduate School of Political Management*
College to Congress
Congressional Management Foundation
Demand Progress
Issue One
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
Kevin M. Esterling, University of California, Riverside*
NALEO Educational Fund
Partnership for Public Service
Pay Our Interns
Project On Government Oversight
Protect Democracy
Rick Shapiro, Strategic Assets Consulting*
R Street Institute
Unite America

* Affiliations listed for identification purposes only