July 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Ryan  
Chair  
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Subcommittee Chair Ryan and Subcommittee Ranking Member Herrera Beutler:

We are writing this letter to thank you for investing in the institution of Congress through the draft FY 2023 Legislative Branch Funding Bill. This bill builds on previous work and takes significant steps to build a more efficient, effective, and responsive first branch of government.

As organizations and experts from across the political spectrum dedicated to making Congress work better for the American people, we recognize the Appropriations Committee and Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee’s continued efforts to build a strong Congress. This year’s funding bill continues that work.

We want to commend the committee for its continued investment in the staff that make Congress run. A $35.6 million increase in the Member Representational Allowance will allow offices to attract talented staff and retain their knowledge, building on last year’s funding adjustment. Providing $24.3 million in funding for paid internships in personal, committee, and leadership offices is also critical, and will combine with the newly created House Intern Resource Office to make the pipeline to positions on the Hill more equitable and accessible. Finally, we were thrilled to see the committee implement a recommendation made by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress (ModCom) to create a tuition assistance program for staff. Each of these steps will make a career serving the public on Capitol Hill a much more viable option and increase Congress’ ability to represent the American people.

As organizations that have long advocated for a more modern and efficient Congress, we are also aware of the impact that will come from funding the Modernization Initiative Account at $10 million. This funding is an investment in a more robust and efficient Congress that will pay
dividends for members, staff, and constituents. As noted by ModCom Chairs Derek Kilmer and William Timmons, these funds will be used to help implement key initiatives from the House Clerk and newly established House Digital Service to modernize congressional operations, such as establishing a database of committee votes and using modern organization tools to deconflict scheduled committee hearings.

Finally, we want to thank the subcommittee for investing in the agencies that support Congress and enhance its ability to serve the American people. This includes much-needed funding for the Clerk (an increase of $4,327,000 from FY 2022), Sergeant at Arms ($11,098,000), and the Chief Administrative Officer ($18,384,200).

Thank you again for the committee’s ongoing commitment to building a stronger, more capable, and more responsive Congress. We will continue to champion these efforts, including encouraging the Senate to follow the House’s lead by implementing the full scope of congressional modernization appropriations reforms. We look forward to continuing to work with you to enhance Congress’ problem-solving capacity.

Sincerely,
Bipartisan Policy Center Action
Casey Burgat, George Washington University, Graduate School of Political Management*
College to Congress
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)
Congressional Management Foundation
Demand Progress
Issue One
Kevin M. Esterling, University of California, Riverside*
NALEO Educational Fund
Partnership for Public Service
Pay Our Interns
Protect Democracy
Rick Shapiro, Strategic Assets Consulting*
R Street Institute
Unite America

* Affiliations listed for identification purposes only

cc: Members of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch