

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

TODAY: Select Committee to Vote on First Round of Congressional Recommendations

Committee will consider new bipartisan recommendations to improve transparency in Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Chairman Derek Kilmer (D-WA) of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress announced that the Select Committee will hold a Business Meeting on May 23rd at 9:15 a.m. to consider proposed recommendations on transparency.

WHEN:

Thursday, May 23rd at 9:15 a.m.

WHERE:

2020 Rayburn House Office Building

[The meeting will be livestreamed here.](#)

WHAT:

The Select Committee will hold a Business Meeting to consider a new package of recommendations to improve transparency and accountability in the legislative branch. Drafted by the committee to give the American people greater access to the inner-workings of Congress, the recommendations will be voted on before being sent to the respective congressional committees of jurisdiction. The recommendations can be seen below.

The Select Committee supports:

- 1) **Adopting one standardized format for drafting, viewing, and publishing legislation to improve transparency and efficiency throughout the lawmaking process.**

Specifically ... Develop a plan for the adoption of US Legislative Markup (USLM) throughout the lawmaking process. The plan would incorporate timeline for use by the House Legislative Counsel, members' offices, leadership, and committees. Such an approach would help members, staff, and the American public have access to changes, visualizations, and analysis of legislative text. Printing and publishing processes would also be made more efficient.

- 2) **Providing resources to finish legislation comparison project on schedule and train staff to vastly improve the American public's ability to understand how amendments change legislation, and the impact of proposed legislation to current law.**

Specifically ... The Clerk's Office is on track to meet their Phase 2 (August 2019) and Phase 3 (3rd quarter 2020) deadlines. The main issues of concern are making sure that 1) CAO is prepared/ready to install the comparative print software on staff computers, and 2) staff are properly trained in using the comparative print software. Support would include ensuring that the Clerk's Office is ready to handle these anticipated challenges to implement the comparative print program.

- 3) **Modernizing the lobbying disclosure system to improve the filing process and more easily find and track individual disclosures.**

Specifically ... Direct the Clerk of the House and Secretary of the Senate to update the lobbying disclosure system in general and generate a Congress-wide unique identifier for lobbyists and disclosing that identifier to the public as structured data as part of the lobbying disclosure downloads.

- 4) **Developing a centralized, electronic HUB that would list all federal agency and program reauthorization expiration dates, by committee.**

Specifically ... Congress has increasingly failed to regularly update the authorization of federal agencies and programs. Centralizing agency and program reauthorization dates provides members, staff, and the public with easy-to-access information about the current status of executive branch programs and the committees that are responsible for authorizing those programs.

- 5) **Developing a centralized, electronic HUB of committee votes that would be accessible via [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and in machine readable format.**

Specifically ... Figuring out how a committee or its subcommittees voted on any bill or issue before the committee or its subcommittees can be prohibitively difficult. Each committee sets its own procedures for making this information publicly available. The information is public, yet it's not easy to access by most Americans. Centralizing committee vote data in one place enhances transparency and ensures ease of access for the public.

WHO:

[Members of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress](#)

For more information please visit <https://modernizecongress.house.gov>

RSVP:

After the Business Meeting, Chairman Kilmer and Vice Chair Tom Graves (R-GA) will host a "Pen-and-Pad" session with media to discuss the recommendations. **The session will be at 12 p.m. today in Vice Chair Graves' office (2078 Rayburn House Office Building).**

Media interested in attending are asked to RSVP to [Danielle Stewart](#).