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Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6601

April 17, 2023

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle,

Pursuant to Section 505 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, I am submitting this quarterly report regarding the assignment of unique identifiers for reports filed by registered lobbyists.

In 2022 my staff and I recommended that the current lobbying disclosure system be redesigned and built anew.¹ A contemporary system will improve user experience, provide more efficient processing and automation, and allow for greater transparency. It will also permit us to meet the request of assigning unique identifiers to individual lobbyists.

Since the last report, my staff in the Legislative Computer Systems (LCS) division have continued to research various technologies that we can leverage in the redesign effort. Additionally, we have had ongoing conversations with our Senate counterparts about the newly built Senate lobbying disclosure application (Senate LDA). We have been examining the Senate's new platform to determine if there are any impacts to the House modernization initiatives, especially as it pertains to the implementation of unique lobbyist IDs. Since the current lobbying disclosure system is a shared system between the House and the Senate—as

¹ <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP24/20220406/114592/HHRG-117-AP24-Wstate-JohnsonC-20220406.pdf>.

mandated by law—close coordination and collaboration is imperative to the successful solution. Related, we continued to explore third-party solution providers to assist in user authentication and processing personally identifiable information data for lobbyists both inside and outside the United States.

With regards to funding this work, the Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 2617, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (P.L. 117-328), provided my office \$1,400,000 from the Modernization Initiatives Account.² These funds have been transferred to the appropriate Clerk accounts.

To that end, on April 12, 2023, my staff provided an update of our modernization efforts to Committee on House Administration staff, including goals, a project roadmap, and expected expenditures for the next two years.

Finally, unless otherwise directed, we will submit our next report about this project on or before October 15, 2023. If you or others on the Committee have questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl L. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk of the House

cc: The Honorable Mark Amodei, Chairman, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee
The Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Ranking Member, Legislative Branch Appropriations
Subcommittee

² <https://www.congress.gov/117/crec/2022/12/20/168/198/CREC-2022-12-20-pt2-PgS8553-2.pdf>.