

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

January 12, 2024

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 and Legislative Resource Center divisions have continued conversations with our Senate counterparts about how to modernize the existing system. The newly created Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA) Executive Decision Board meets monthly to review and discuss system proposals and make decisions. The Board has met three times since the last report and has reached an agreement that LDA modernization, including unique lobbyist ID capabilities, will be built on top of the recently revamped Senate portion of the Lobbying Disclosure System. Under that agreement, the House

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

would assume roles of project sponsor, major stakeholder, and customer and have input on requirements, including how filers create and maintain unique lobbyist IDs. Clerk staff would ensure that all tasks and outcomes align with House needs.

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 with \$1,400,000 from the Modernization Initiatives Account.² The Board is discussing using this fund for research, development, and implementation of identity verification and improved account management. We are working with the Senate to draft an RFP to develop system components for user authentication and verification using PII, as well as enhanced account management.

Once the Board decides about the two items mentioned above, my staff and I will schedule a meeting to brief this Committee and the Committee on Appropriations.

Finally, unless otherwise directed, we will submit our next report about this project on or before July 15, 2024. 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 that reads "Kevin F. McCumber". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin F. McCumber
Acting 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>.