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October 15, 2021

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
Chairperson  
Committee on House Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairperson Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis,

As required by Section 505 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, agreed to by the House on March 10, 2020, I am submitting this quarterly report about the assignment of unique identifiers for reports filed by registered lobbyists.

In our initial and first quarterly reports, we discussed the challenges of reconciling the names already in the Lobbying Disclosure system and identified two potential solutions for assigning unique identifiers to existing and future registered lobbyists.<sup>1</sup> My Legislative Computer Systems (LCS) staff continue to do research and preliminary work on both solutions.

On September 28, 2021, we provided a briefing to Appropriations Committee staff to meet the directive in the FY22 Legislative Branch report, officially posted on June 29, 2021, that requires me to brief the Committee no later than September 26, 2021, on these efforts.<sup>2</sup> Staff from the Committee on House Administration and the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress also attended.

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<sup>1</sup><https://cha.house.gov/sites/democrats.cha.house.gov/files/documents/Assignment%20of%20Unique%20Identifiers%20for%20Reports%20Filed%20by%20Registered%20Lobbyists.pdf>; <https://cha.house.gov/sites/democrats.cha.house.gov/files/Clerk-QR1-LobbyistID.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup><https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20210629/112879/HMKP-117-AP00-20210629-SD003.pdf>.

During this briefing, LCS staff and I discussed the challenges of managing the 35,000 lobbyist accounts (20,000 active and 15,000 inactive) in the current system. Given the system's age (with components that are more than 15 years old), we recommend a complete redesign. A new system will bring more accuracy, improved user experience, and other efficiencies. Additionally, we can improve data accessibility; provide better file processing and automation; and make the data, including unique lobbyist identifiers, available to the public.

We have more to discuss, so the briefing attendees agreed to gather additional information and to meet again. Follow-up meetings will help determine scope, desired project outcomes, timelines, and cost.

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, reading "Cheryl L. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.