

November 16, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis  
1216 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
H-312, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
H-152, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: The House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress in the 117th Congress**

Dear House Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chair Lofgren, Ranking Member Davis, Chair McGovern, and Ranking Member Cole:

We write to encourage the House of Representatives to re-establish the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress in the 117th Congress. The Select Committee made great strides during the 116th Congress toward improving the House of Representatives, as demonstrated by its in-depth hearings and nearly 100 recommendations, many of which were enacted by the House. The Select Committee demonstrated it is an effective model to further reform in the House and we believe it should be afforded the opportunity to build upon its successes and tackle additional issues.

In just 21 months, the Select Committee released five packages of recommendations, each unanimously voted out of the committee, totaling 97 bipartisan recommendations aimed at making the House more efficient, transparent, and inclusive. The Select Committee held 16 hearings, multiple virtual discussions, and numerous Member and staff-level briefing and listening sessions to develop ideas to reform and strengthen the Legislative branch. In March 2020, the House overwhelmingly enacted legislation to implement some of its recommendations, H. Res. 756, *Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution*.

These efforts to modernize Congress are an excellent start, but there is more work to be done to ensure a responsive, modern, and accountable legislature. The Select Committee should review the implementation of its recommendations and dig deeper to identify appropriate next steps

within the House of Representatives for modernization. In addition, its scope should be expanded to review the operations and configuration of Legislative branch support agencies to determine whether they are sufficient to support the House of Representatives in meeting all of its responsibilities.

Thank you for your leadership and support of the Select Committee during the 116th Congress. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further. Please contact Daniel Schuman, policy director, Demand Progress, at [daniel@demandprogress.org](mailto:daniel@demandprogress.org), or Zach Graves, head of policy, Lincoln Network, at [zach.graves@joinlincoln.org](mailto:zach.graves@joinlincoln.org).

Sincerely,

Advocacy Blueprints  
American Library Association  
American Oversight  
Bipartisan Policy Center  
Business for America  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)  
Civic Health Project  
College to Congress  
Common Ground Solutions  
Congressional Management Foundation  
Data Coalition  
Demand Progress  
Democracy Fund Voice  
FairVote  
Fix the Court  
FixUS  
Free Government Information (FGI)  
Government Accountability Project  
Government Information Watch  
GovTrack.us  
Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability (IDEA) at the Ohio State University  
Issue One  
The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies  
Leadership Now Project  
Lincoln Network  
The Lugar Center  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Institute for Civil Discourse  
National Taxpayers Union  
Open The Government  
Partnership for Public Service  
Project On Government Oversight  
Protect Democracy

Quorum  
R Street Institute  
Resetting the Table  
Senior Executives Association  
Taxpayers for Common Sense

Alex Howard, Digital Democracy Project\*  
Beth Simone Noveck, The Governance Lab\*  
Bob Inglis, RepublicEn.org\*  
Brian Baird, Former Member of Congress\*  
Carolyn Lukensmeyer, National Institute for Civil Discourse\*  
Casey Burgat, The George Washington University\*  
Eric Mill, Individual  
Kevin M. Esterling, University of California, Riverside\*  
Kevin Kosar, American Enterprise Institute\*  
Kristen Hansen, Individual  
Lorelei Kelly, Beeck Center for Social Impact + Innovation at Georgetown\*  
Michael Neblo, Ohio State University / Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability\*  
Marci Harris, POPVOX Inc\*  
Rick Shapiro, Individual  
Sarah Binder, The George Washington University and Brookings Institution\*  
Zaid Umar, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget\*

*\* Affiliations listed for identification purposes only.*

cc: Hon. Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations  
Hon. Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations  
Hon. Derek Kilmer, Chair, Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress