



CONGRESSIONAL
MANAGEMENT
FOUNDATION

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
H-232, The Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
H-204, The Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

During the 116th Congress the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress has performed tremendous service to the House, to Congress, and to democracy, and the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) urges leadership to extend its mandate into the 117th congress.

The Select Committee's pragmatic approach has led it to focus on some of the most pressing, but largely non-controversial, issues facing the House of Representatives. Through its research and thought leadership, it has helped illuminate many challenges and provided pragmatic recommendations to help overcome them. It has also helped both the House and Senate adapt to the challenges of remote work and continuity of Congress during the current COVID-19 crisis. Additionally, its operations have served as a model for other committees of collaboration, vetting, and consensus-building.

Their proposals, if implemented by the House of Representatives, will tangibly improve the House's public policy process and enhance services to constituents. Their recommendations will strengthen the Congress, allow constituents to have a greater voice in government, and help restore the proper balance of power between the executive and legislative branches of government.

Their work is not done. There are additional issues to explore and deeper investigation needed on many of the challenges the Select Committee has already addressed. Congress is the hub of democracy in the United States and the House of Representatives is the primary facilitator of the People's engagement in the shaping of public policy. Given the current state of affairs, there is much work to be done to maximize and fully modernize the House so its members truly engage and serve the People.

We could not put it better than the Select Committee did, itself, in the final paragraph of its final report:

"The Committee's final recommendation is to make modernization a permanent effort. For an institution to remain current, it needs to constantly assess and update. The ability to rapidly adjust operations to reflect modern standards is good practice. An ongoing commitment to modernization and transparent reform on behalf of the American people will ensure the Committee's mission lives on for future Congress."

In our four decades of working with Congress, the CMF has rarely seen a group of legislators work so closely together to astutely assess a public policy need, analyze the implications, and chart a course that benefits both the institution and the constituents it serves. CMF urges you to extend or make permanent the mandate of the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Sincerely,



Bradford Fitch
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chair, Committee on House Administration
The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration
The Honorable Jim McGovern, Chair, House Committee on Rules
The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member, House Committee on Rules
The Honorable Derek Kilmer, Chair, House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress