



Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 2021

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

The Honorable James McGovern
Chairman
House Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren, Ranking Member Davis, Chairman McGovern and Ranking Member Cole:

In accordance with Section 201(f) of House Resolution 6, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, and Section 4(e) of House Resolution 8, One Hundred Seventeenth Congress, and consistent with other committee reporting obligations, we are submitting the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress's (Select Committee) interim status report for Q3 of 2021. Pursuant to those requirements, we are including:

- a reporting of expenditures;
- a proposed plan for the next 90 days; and
- transcripts of the Select Committee's proceedings, along with short summaries.

A copy of this report will be made available, upon request, to each member of the Select Committee.

Sincerely,

Derek Kilmer
Chair
Select Committee on the
Modernization of Congress

William Timmons
Vice Chair
Select Committee on the
Modernization of Congress

Reporting of Expenditures – Q3

Included below are copies of the Select Committee’s monthly financial statements for the purposes of providing an “itemized reporting” of the committee’s monthly expenses.

U.S. House of Representatives Monthly Financial Statement by Legislative Year

Office: 10MD000 SELECT COMM - MODERNIZATION	Authorization Year 2021 2021:117th Congress 1st Session Month: July 2021
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Disbursed Summary

Program	Object Class	Budget Object Class	MTD Disbursed	YTD Disbursed	
EXPEN	General Expenditures	11 Personnel Compensation	1101 Non-Statutory Compensation	69,747.23	428,406.98
		1104 Accrued Leave	0.00	2,708.33	
		Total	69,747.23	431,115.31	
	23 Rent, Communications, Utilities		2320 DC Telecom Equip (TRANSFER)	28.00	168.00
			2321 DC Telecom Serv (TRANSFER)	108.50	651.00
			2322 DC Telecom Tolls (TRANSFER)	742.58	4,864.99
			2335 HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	290.00	290.00
			2345 Recording (Outside)	440.00	1,100.00
			2350 Postage / Courier / Box Rental	0.00	85.03
			Total	1,609.08	7,159.02
	24 Printing and Reproduction		2401 Printing & Reproduction	0.00	108.15
			2403 Photographic (TRANSFER)	20.00	60.00
			Total	20.00	168.15
	25 Other Services		2503 Consultant Contract Service	0.00	1,500.00
			2572 Web Dev Hst,Email & Rltd Serv	0.00	3,600.00
			Total	0.00	5,100.00
	26 Supplies and Materials		2603 Food & Beverage	996.50	1,005.60
			2620 Office Supplies (Outside)	1,075.21	1,950.09
			2621 Office Supply (TRANSFER)	63.50	143.89
			2623 Software < \$500	0.00	116.58
			Total	2,135.21	3,216.16
	31 Equipment		3112 Computer Hardw Purch <\$25,000	4,092.52	4,092.52
			3115 Computer Softw Purch <\$10,000	4,600.00	4,600.00
3118 Maintenance / Repairs			207.15	1,450.05	
Total			8,899.67	10,142.57	
Total		82,411.19	456,901.21		

U.S. House of Representatives Monthly Financial Statement by Legislative Year

Office: 10MD000 SELECT COMM - MODERNIZATION	Authorization Year 2021 2021:117th Congress 1st Session Month: August 2021
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Program	Object Class	Budget Object Class	MTD Disbursed	YTD Disbursed
EXPEN	General Expenditures	Total	94,435.79	551,337.00

U.S. House of Representatives
Monthly Financial Statement by Legislative Year

Office: 10MD000 SELECT COMM - MODERNIZATION

Authorization Year 2021
 2021:117th Congress 1st Session
 Month: August 2021

Disbursed Summary

Program	Object Class	Budget Object Class	MTD Disbursed	YTD Disbursed
EXPEN General Expenditures	11 Personnel Compensation	1101 Non-Statutory Compensation	89,188.87	517,595.85
		1104 Accrued Leave	0.00	2,708.33
		Total	89,188.87	520,304.18
	21 Travel	2135 Taxi/Parking/Tolls	27.03	27.03
		Total	27.03	27.03
	23 Rent, Communications, Utilities	2320 DC Telecom Equip (TRANSFER)	28.00	196.00
		2321 DC Telecom Serv (TRANSFER)	108.50	759.50
		2322 DC Telecom Tolls (TRANSFER)	742.40	5,607.39
		2335 HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	0.00	290.00
		2345 Recording (Outside)	0.00	1,100.00
		2350 Postage / Courier / Box Rental	0.00	85.03
		Total	878.90	8,037.92
	24 Printing and Reproduction	2401 Printing & Reproduction	0.00	108.15
		2403 Photographic (TRANSFER)	0.00	60.00
		Total	0.00	168.15
	25 Other Services	2503 Consultant Contract Service	0.00	1,500.00
		2572 Web Dev Hst,Email & Rltd Serv	0.00	3,600.00
		Total	0.00	5,100.00
	26 Supplies and Materials	2602 Water	14.58	14.58
		2603 Food & Beverage	23.73	1,029.33
		2620 Office Supplies (Outside)	3,015.57	4,965.66
		2621 Office Supply (TRANSFER)	0.00	143.89
		2623 Software < \$500	0.00	116.58
		Total	3,053.88	6,270.04
	31 Equipment	3112 Computer Hardw Purch <\$25,000	1,079.96	5,172.48
		3115 Computer Softw Purch <\$10,000	0.00	4,600.00
		3118 Maintenance / Repairs	207.15	1,657.20
		Total	1,287.11	11,429.68

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U.S. House of Representatives
Monthly Financial Statement by Legislative Year

Office: 10MD000 SELECT COMM - MODERNIZATION

Authorization Year 2021
 2021:117th Congress 1st Session
 Month: September 2021

Disbursed Summary

Program	Object Class	Budget Object Class	MTD Disbursed	YTD Disbursed
EXPEN General Expenditures	11 Personnel Compensation	1101 Non-Statutory Compensation	75,550.66	593,146.51
		1104 Accrued Leave	0.00	2,708.33
		Total	75,550.66	595,854.84
	21 Travel	2135 Taxi/Parking/Tolls	40.06	67.09
		Total	40.06	67.09
	23 Rent, Communications, Utilities	2320 DC Telecom Equip (TRANSFER)	28.00	224.00
		2321 DC Telecom Serv (TRANSFER)	108.50	868.00
		2322 DC Telecom Tolls (TRANSFER)	705.90	6,313.29
		2335 HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	0.00	290.00
		2345 Recording (Outside)	0.00	1,100.00
		2350 Postage / Courier / Box Rental	0.00	85.03
		Total	842.40	8,880.32
	24 Printing and Reproduction	2401 Printing & Reproduction	869.90	978.05
		2403 Photographic (TRANSFER)	0.00	60.00
		Total	869.90	1,038.05
	25 Other Services	2503 Consultant Contract Service	0.00	1,500.00
		2527 Training	3,000.00	3,000.00
		2572 Web Dev Hst,Email & Rltd Serv	0.00	3,600.00
		Total	3,000.00	8,100.00
	26 Supplies and Materials	2602 Water	30.42	45.00
		2603 Food & Beverage	0.00	1,029.33
		2604 Legislative Plnng Food and Bev	22.11	22.11
		2610 Habitation Expense	79.98	79.98
		2620 Office Supplies (Outside)	193.02	5,158.68
		2621 Office Supply (TRANSFER)	41.50	185.39
		2623 Software < \$500	0.00	116.58
		2630 Publications/Reference Mat'l	49.00	49.00
		Total	416.03	6,686.07

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U.S. House of Representatives
Monthly Financial Statement by Legislative Year

Office: 10MD000 SELECT COMM - MODERNIZATION	Authorization Year 2021 2021:117th Congress 1st Session Month: September 2021
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Program	Object Class	Budget Object Class	MTD Disbursed	YTD Disbursed
EXPEN	General Expenditures	3112 Computer Hardw Purch <\$25,000	4,136.00	9,308.48
		3115 Computer Softw Purch <\$10,000	0.00	4,600.00
		3118 Maintenance / Repairs	207.15	1,864.35
		Total	4,343.15	15,772.83
Total			85,062.20	636,399.20

Ninety-Day Plan

As of the date of this interim report, while subject to change, the Select Committee expects the agenda for the next ninety days to include but not be limited to the following hearings and business meetings:

October 21 committee hearing titled, “Modernizing the Congressional Support Agencies to Meet the Needs of an Evolving Congress.” Congressional support agencies, which are tasked with providing members and staff with up-to-date analysis, are challenged to keep up. This hearing will consider what modern support agencies would look like and what it would take to transform the Congressional Research Service (CRS), Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and Government Accountability Office (GAO) into agencies equipped to manage the challenges of today and the future. The hearing will also consider how information can be packaged and provided in a more modern, easy to understand way for both public and private consumption. Note that this hearing was originally scheduled for September 28 and was postponed due to a conflict with votes.

October 27 committee hearing titled, “Improving the Lawmaking Process: Evidence-Based Legislating.” This hearing will consider the need for impartial statistical, scientific, and technological analysis in Congress. Broadly, it will look at how the Evidence Act of 2018 (Public Law No. 115-435) changed the landscape when it comes to evidence-based policymaking and what things can be done in Congress to build on the changes that legislation enacted across the executive branch. It will look at potential options for providing members, committees, and staff with timely, impartial analyses of complicated scientific and technological issues. Topics will likely include the development of a training program for congressional staff on the understanding and interpretation of evidence; establishing best practices for drafting legislation in a way that allows for better program implementation and that will aid future data gathering for program evaluation by Congress; and explore recommendations for de-siloing data that already exists.

November 4 committee hearing titled, “Improving the Lawmaking Process: Bolstering Congressional Oversight Capacity.” This hearing would focus on topics like using the budget process to re-assert congressional power, reforms to lower barriers to oversight, and regaining oversight powers that Congress previously abdicated. Some of these topics were introduced in the Committee’s January 2020 Article One hearing.

November 16 member meeting (tentative), discussion on second package of recommendations.

December 2 member meeting (tentative), discussion on second package of recommendations.

December 8 business meeting expected vote on second package of Select Committee recommendations.

Transcripts of Committee Proceedings – Q3

On July 20, 2021, the Committee held a hearing titled, “Rethinking the Committee and Sharing Best Practices.” This hearing featured two panels, one consisting of two senior members of Congress and another consisting of two former senior House committee aides and a professor of political science whose research examines congressional agenda setting and committee power. The hearing focused on the central role committees play in Congress’s governing responsibilities and how to strengthen their role within the institution. The full transcript of the hearing can be found here: [Enhancing Committee Productivity through Consensus Building](#).

On July 29, 2021, the Committee held a business meeting to vote on, and approve, the first package of Select Committee recommendations for the 117th Congress. The full transcript of the business meeting can be found here: [Business Meeting to Consider Slate of Recommendations](#).

On September 23, 2021, the committee held a hearing, “Pathways to Success: How Practicing Civility, Collaboration, and Leadership Can Empower Members.” While the committee’s July 20 hearing on enhancing committee productivity touched on the topic of empowering members, this hearing focused on how members who pursue a civil, collaborative, and leadership-oriented approach to their work in Congress are better able to achieve their policy and political goals. Witnesses discussed how members who take a collaborative approach are better able to meet their legislative and electoral goals; how members who are civil in their interactions with colleagues and employees are more likely to earn respect and be viewed as leaders; and how exercising strong leadership can help members achieve their goals. The full transcript of the hearing can be found here: [Pathways to Success: How Practicing Civility, Collaboration, and Leadership Can Empower Members](#).

In addition to these hearings, the Select Committee hosted several “brown bags” for Congressional staff. These four informal discussions included both internal and external guests, including the Partnership for Public Service, House Recording Studio, Congressional Staff Academy, and others. The committee also held virtual listening sessions with Congressional staff to receive their input on what policies could improve the work that they do. The committee hosted eight total listening sessions during Q3 with both district staff and Washington, D.C.-based staff.