



November 10, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

Issue One writes to express our support to reestablish the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress in the 117th Congress. The Select Committee, in fulfilling its mandate to study and report on reforms that would promote a more modern and efficient Congress, has made significant progress within a short span of time. In just under two years, it has released 97 bipartisan recommendations designed to make the House more effective, efficient, and overall a better institution for all Americans.

In March 2020, with 395 votes in favor, the House overwhelmingly enacted legislation — [H. Res. 756, *Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution*](#) — which implemented 30 of the Committee's bipartisan recommendations to improve House technology, transparency, staff diversity and retention, and constituent accessibility and engagement.

These efforts to modernize Congress are an excellent start, but more work is needed to create a truly modern and accountable legislature. While the current political climate may dominate the headlines, the bipartisan Select Committee is well-positioned to drive reforms that will benefit Congress and restore the American people's faith in our democratic institutions.

Reestablishing the Select Committee will give this committee the time it needs to discuss other pressing issues it did not have time to address and reach consensus on this Congress, and allow the Committee to continue working to implement the reforms it has already recommended. The many issues facing Congress — technological challenges, improving civil discourse, and increasing staff capacity — require further attention.

Adjusting congressional operations to meet modern standards is not only a good practice, it shows that Congress is committed to serving the American people. For these reasons, we thank you for your leadership as we request to extend the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Sincerely,



issueone.org

Issue One

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