

Chairman Ryan and Ranking Member Herrera Beutler, thank you for hosting today's Member Day hearing.

I appreciate your partnership as we work to make Congress more effective and efficient on behalf of the American people.

I also want to thank Chairman Kilmer for the work he's done through our bipartisan team.

He highlighted the way we've worked together to get the job done, and I want to commend him for leading us in an environment of bipartisanship and collaboration.

It's through his commitment to success, and thinking outside of the box, that we have been able to break the mold and get things done.

When the Select Committee first started, we chose to work together and combine our resources as one team, instead of separating the staff and office space by party line.

Thanks to the Chairman, this unique opportunity has created a bond of trust and collaboration unlike anything I've been a part of in Congress.

As he has shared with you, our committee has passed 45 recommendations, and we've still got work to do.

Every recommendation we make aims to strengthen the capacity of the House so that we can better serve all Americans.

Our goal is simple, but critical: make Congress work better for the American people.

I'd like to build on the recommendations the Chairman shared with you and would encourage your subcommittee to also invest in the following.

Our first round of recommendations last year focused on boosting transparency and accountability in the House.

We recommended creating a centralized, electronic HUB that would list all federal agency and program reauthorization dates by committee.

We also recommended creating a centralized HUB of committee votes, so that the American people could easily see how their Members vote in committee.

We urge the subcommittee to invest in the creation of these HUBs so that the American people can have "one-click access" to our work here in Congress.

These systems would allow information sharing to be easier and faster.

It's also important that we finalize funding for a new system that allows the public to easily track how amendments change bills, and how bills change current law.

This would help both Members and the American people better understand the changes being made to existing law and would allow for more efficient policy-making and debate.

Finally, we urge supporting one standard digital format to use throughout the legislative process.

The House currently uses four different software formats for drafting legislation, which is really inefficient and costly.

Using one standardized format throughout the process makes for a much more efficient and open system.

While exploring ways to improve transparency and access, we heard from many of our colleagues and staff about the need for better processes and training here in the House.

One of the things we have championed is continued learning and professional development for Members of Congress.

Every day we are here we should be asking questions and learning about the issues that matter most to our constituents.

We urge you to consider funding a Member training and leadership development courses. Continued learning is an important piece of our jobs here in Congress.

It's also important that Members receive cybersecurity training.

Congressional staff receive annual cyber training, it's important that we are also kept up-to-date and aware of the latest cyber threats and practices.

We also recommended giving new Members the option to hire and pay one staffer during the transition process. We urge your subcommittee to consider providing funds for these transition aides, which would bring the House in line with current Senate practice, and also encourage staff retention.

As we continue our work throughout the remainder of this year, no idea is too big or too small, and we encourage you to continue sharing your ideas for reform with us.

Together we're giving the House a roadmap for a brighter future.

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to share our work.