Statement of Karen Donfried
Director, Congressional Research Service
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Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the invitation to participate in this hearing regarding the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the future of artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled policy analysis. I am three months shy of my two-year anniversary directing CRS and I am grateful to you and to the committee staff for your strong support of CRS and of me over these past 21 months.

We are all witnessing, in real time, how the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence is permeating virtually every area of society. As director of CRS, I could not be more eager for the Service to harness this powerful technology to enhance our provision of research, analysis, and consultative support to Congress. In this age of AI, I believe the role of CRS's highly skilled workforce will become only more important to Congress, as you look for sources you can trust in an increasingly unreliable information landscape.

CRS was established in 1914 with one overarching mission: to provide Congress with objective, nonpartisan research, analysis, information, and consultative assistance to support its legislative, oversight, and representational duties. Through decades of technological innovation, a fluid and complex public policy environment, and changes in the way Congress itself operates, CRS's mission has endured. CRS has, however, never stood still. CRS has adapted its products, services, and operational capabilities to meet Congress's evolving needs. You need look no further than the recent development of new visually based products, such as interactive graphics and reports, to present CRS research, analysis, and information to Congress in new, accessible, and user-friendly formats. AI-enabled applications present yet another opportunity for CRS to integrate state-of-the-art technology into its workflow to enhance its support for Congress. AI is likely to become integral to all three of CRS's strategic goals of equipping Congress, inspiring innovation, and strengthening the CRS culture.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS: AI-ENHANCED TECHNOLOGY AS A TOOL TO SUPPORT CRS SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE

Among the many resources that Congress has at its disposal, CRS is uniquely positioned to support Congress with authoritative, objective analysis and research, tailored specifically to the needs of the congressional client. Congress has long considered CRS staff to be an extension of its own, offering not only subject matter expertise, but intimate knowledge of the legislative process, as well as decades of invaluable institutional memory. CRS analysts and attorneys cultivate ongoing consultative relationships with congressional staff, enabling them, as experts, to unpack the specifics of staffers' policy and legal questions and to provide nuanced analysis, information, and advice. CRS experts are supported by a multi-layered review process to ensure the accuracy and authoritativeness of the research and analysis provided to Congress, as well as consistency with CRS core values of objectivity and non-partisanship. CRS offers this tailored, client-focused subject matter expertise across the full range of policy and legal issues on Congress's agenda.

Staff training will be key as CRS analysts, attorneys, and librarians strive to use AI tools most effectively. CRS has always sought to maintain and professionally develop our highly skilled workforce to meet the needs of Congress. To facilitate the integration of AI tools into CRS's work, the Service offers training opportunities to CRS staff in the areas of statistics, data science, and AI. In fiscal 2025 and 2026, the Service contracted to offer training on topics, such as the use of PowerBI, Python and Natural Language Processing, Generative AI and prompt engineering, design and use of AI agents, AI ethics, and data analysis and visualization using R and Excel. Such training will continue to be a priority.

Appropriately utilized, AI-enhanced technology promises to be a valuable resource to support and enhance the work of CRS's subject matter experts and to create efficiencies in their responses to congressional requests and the development of products and services. Over the past three years, there has been a proliferation of commercially developed AI-enhanced applications that focus on public policy information and analysis. CRS has access to some of these applications through subscriptions to the host platform as part of our research materials budget. CRS has actively engaged with these providers and their AI developers to evaluate their AI offerings and assess their utility.

The AI tools that CRS has evaluated come with some risks that are readily acknowledged by the developers. These risks are primarily related to the accuracy and authoritativeness of the information generated by AI. For example, most platforms CRS has evaluated that have an AI assistant offer a disclaimer or caveat that analysis or text generated by AI can contain errors and should not be considered authoritative and recommend checking against official sources. Towards this end, in the case of bill summaries, several sites prominently suggest CRS as an alternative to the AI-generated summary. CRS bill summaries and other data critical for tracking and analyzing legislation are available from the Congress.gov API (Application Programming Interface). Most of these sites acknowledge Congress.gov as the go-to source for key legislative data and official bill texts.

CRS and the Library of Congress (Library) maintain the Congress.gov API. More than 1.3 billion Congress.gov API service requests have been made since the API was released to the public in September 2022. Usage of the API is anticipated to continue to increase as the House, Senate, Government Publishing Office, and Congressional Budget Office, as well as external applications, build modern systems with data dependencies on the trustworthy and authoritative information distributed from the Congress.gov API.

Varied sources of policy analysis, including AI-driven policy analysis, provided by think tanks, academia, and commercial platforms, are available to and benefit Congress, but serve a fundamentally different purpose than the analysis provided by CRS. Congress counts on CRS to provide authoritative, objective, nonpartisan, and confidential analysis. Our ability to maintain these standards drives our decisions around the adoption of AI tools for CRS and sets us apart from other sources of policy analysis. CRS will continue to evaluate and adopt AI tools that meet our needs and maintain our standing as a trusted, authoritative source of legislative information and analysis.

CURRENT STATE OF PLAY: CRS'S ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES

CRS is actively engaged in experimenting with AI applications to create efficiencies in its operations and in the delivery of products and services for Congress. Through its Office of Technology Strategy and Legislative Analysis (TLA) and under the guidance of the CRS AI Working Group (AIWG), the Service is developing a set of principles to govern the responsible

integration of AI tools and technologies into the work of CRS. CRS is also finalizing an AI Implementation Plan that will identify high priority use cases for development. Consistent across CRS's planning is the requirement that the adoption of any AI application must be aligned with CRS core values of confidentiality, objectivity, nonpartisanship, authoritativeness and timeliness. Any such adoption must also produce efficiencies in the development of products for Congress and in the accessibility and utility of data. Another requirement is that any AI tool must meet the cybersecurity standards set by the Library's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO).

Under the direction of the AIWG and CRS's Data Science Working Group, the Service has tested and evaluated a number of AI applications to determine if they meet CRS's criteria for potential integration into its workflow. In addition to the activities summarized below, CRS is actively engaging with legislative branch partners, parliamentary research organizations, national libraries, and AI developers to share information and identify additional AI technologies for potential CRS use cases.

Bill Summaries

In fiscal 2024, CRS, in collaboration with OCIO, tested multiple AI approaches, using six different Large Language Models (LLMs), for drafting bill summaries. Unfortunately, these summaries failed to meet CRS standards for accuracy, coherence, relevance, and objectivity (less than 3% of 3000 summaries were acceptable). As a follow-up to this effort, which was completed in early fiscal 2026, CRS contracted to develop detailed requirements, technology options, and an implementation plan (including cost estimates and efficiency gains) for the integration of AI-enhanced tools into each step in the bill summary workflow. Based on that work, CRS has a prioritized implementation plan for seven unique AI use cases across the bill summary workflow that, if fully implemented, is expected to provide a significant increase in the number of bill summaries produced by current staff. It should be noted, however, that the pace of technological change limits the effective life of the plan. Timely investment in an AI platform in fiscal 2027 will be needed in order for these gains to be realized.

Microsoft Copilot Evaluation

Working closely with OCIO, CRS launched a nine-month pilot and evaluation of Microsoft Copilot in August 2025. The Service purchased and rotated 30 licenses among CRS and OCIO

staff across two phases of the evaluation, enabling 50 different staff members (36 from CRS and 14 from OCIO) to participate over the duration of the pilot. A variety of use cases for Copilot were assessed, including utilizing the application as a coding assistant for CRS interactive graphic products.

Legal Research and Analysis Tools

In fiscal 2025, CRS evaluated AI-assisted legal research and analysis tools from several vendors. Each of the applications was assessed over several months during a trial by CRS legal experts and research librarians. The pilots yielded mixed results regarding accuracy and the potential efficiencies to be gained; however, CRS continues to evaluate the tools, to assess their performance and to determine their most appropriate use for CRS staff.

CRS-designed AI-enhanced Tools for Research and Analysis

Consistent with the direction from Congress in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, CRS has expanded its capacity to perform quantitative analysis, including the modeling of "big data" sets, developing new data science tools, and harnessing cloud-based applications. These efforts have enabled CRS to produce a cloud environment dedicated to the development of advanced analytic tools, including five CRS cloud-hosted models to support research and analysis across a range of policy areas. Of particular note is the production of the first CRS designed AI-powered tool, which enables CRS staff to analyze and characterize public comments for individual dockets on Regulations.gov.

Expansion of CRS Cloud Computing Infrastructure

CRS has established an AWS environment to enable the safe and secure development of CRS-designed data analytic tools and to provide a virtual workspace for CRS staff who need enhanced storage or computational power. In addition, planning is underway for the development of an AI sandbox within CRS's existing environment to enable staff to experiment with CRS-designed concepts for various AI tools using internal CRS data. OCIO has also established an AI sandbox for the Library and is providing limited funding to support staff proposals for AI tool development and experimentation. CRS staff have submitted several proposals for the most recent round of funding scheduled to begin in July 2026. These proposed projects only require

access to publicly available data and include development of an AI tool to recommend subject terms for legislation, a task that is part of the bill summary workflow.

Expanded AI Tool Evaluation

In fiscal 2027, CRS, in collaboration with OCIO, is planning a 12-month evaluation of five AI tools: ChatGPT, Claude, Google AI, Perplexity, and MS Copilot. These tools all have limited free access via their web interface. If fiscal 2026 funds are available, CRS plans to purchase 37 individual licenses of the "Pro" or "Plus" versions of each tool. CRS staff will test a wide range of use cases and compare performance across the tools using a common set of assessment criteria.

THE PATH FORWARD: HOW TO JUMPSTART AI AT CRS

CRS has made significant progress in its exploration of AI applications and in the development of a framework for their integration into the workflow. However, additional funding will be required to maintain the momentum created thus far and to fully reap the benefits to CRS's service to Congress to be gained from AI technology. Included in CRS's fiscal 2027 budget proposal is a program increase of 1.622 million dollars and five FTEs, which supplements a request by OCIO, to support the development of an Artificial Intelligence Enterprise Platform that will be critical to the testing and deployment of AI applications. This AI platform will be a dedicated and secure cloud environment where the Library can build those applications with large language models, domain data, and other AI techniques to produce reliable, high-quality outcomes. The proposed AI platform and added data science expertise will give CRS the ability to expand existing pilot-scale activities to build and use AI services that adhere to our core values, support our mission, and meet the needs of Congress. The platform will be an important component in the delivery of efficient and effective AI technology that could also serve as a resource across the Legislative Branch.

The ability of CRS to pursue innovation powered by AI will be undermined without access to a dedicated AI platform. Investment in an AI platform and the addition of permanent staff with data science and AI development experience will give CRS the necessary resource flexibility to

refine specialized AI solutions within a secure platform to address our unique requirements and realize the most transformational impacts and efficiency gains that AI offers.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Morelle, and Members of the Committee, CRS exists for one purpose—to support Congress with objective, non-partisan, authoritative, confidential, and timely research and analysis. Our most valuable asset in meeting that goal is the breadth and depth of research and analytical expertise that our staff bring to bear on every issue of interest to Congress. The rise of AI will increase, not diminish, the value of that high-quality CRS research and analysis. AI has the potential to augment CRS's workflow, to the extent that it can serve as a research assistant, with CRS staff serving as the final, trusted authority. What CRS offers is a unique combination of subject matter expertise, deep knowledge of the legislative process, and decades of relevant institutional memory. Through the responsible use of AI, CRS will strive to benefit from what AI tools can do best to provide even better support to you. Chatbots may provide you with the fastest answer to a question you have; CRS will provide you with the answer you can trust. I appreciate very much the excellent relationship CRS has with you and with your staff, and would like to thank you sincerely for your continued support of and trust in CRS.