COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MODERNIZATION

FLASH REPORT:

Artificial Intelligence Strategy & Implementation

Produced at the Direction of
Committee Chairman Bryan Steil,
Ranking Member Joseph Morelle,
Subcommittee on Modernization Chairman Stephanie Bice, and
Subcommittee on Modernization Ranking Member Kilmer

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OVERVIEW:

In 2023 generative AI disrupted multiple industries, including government operations, and triggered a global conversation around the social implications of this powerful technology.

AI presents rank-and-file congressional staff with opportunities for dramatically increased efficiency across a wide variety of legislative and operational use cases. At the same time, AI presents the House with unique governance challenges due to the complex legislative data ecosystem and the House's unique legislative, security, and oversight responsibilities. The use of AI raises important questions around institutional guardrails, ethics, and bias.

While innovations continue to be adopted at a rapid pace, transparency is essential to ensuring Congress maintains a detailed understanding of the use of AI in service to the institution and American people.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

The Committee on House Administration (CHA) has requested monthly updates from several congressional support entities on:

1. Actions taken to establish or maintain AI Use Case inventories, and to share that information on public websites to increase transparency, knowledge sharing, and accountability.
2. Actions taken to establish comprehensive AI-related governance documents in line with the NIST framework.
3. Any other relevant actions and efforts that may be underway, for example the establishment of AI advisory committees, AI-related pilots, or AI-related upskilling initiatives for staff.

Reports received by the committee will be used internally to assist in coordination with congressional oversight.

PRELIMINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1) The House has begun meeting with AI experts from NIST and GSA to turn AI principles into holistic governance documents to guide our

responsible path forward.

2) Some congressional support entities, such as the Library of Congress, have already actively partnered with NIST. The Library began implementing AI and machine learning over ten years ago in the context of Optical Character Recognition (a technology used to process documents and enable full-text searching). It currently has five active AI use cases in development.

3) The House is considering use cases for mid-sized, risk-managed AI pilots. For example, the House could coordinate with Former Member's research repositories to gain the ability to 'ask questions' of historical congressional figures. Or it could build a Congress-only LLM using public appropriations data from Congress.gov and public spending data from USASpending.gov, data.gov, and Census.

4) Other congressional support entities, such as the Government Printing Office, have already leveraged AI-enabled search engines to power intranet searches and more quickly assist with customer inquiries of government publications. This office has three pilot programs planned once its governance documents are approved.

5) The House is looking at ways to fast-track an approval process for new AI-enabled functionality that comes from our pre-existing vendors. Once set-up, this will help many of our daily operational workflows become much more efficient & effective.

6) The House is taking steps to standardize data governance rules for Members and Committees so that roles & responsibilities around data stewardship and management are more clear.