

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4706

October 31, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Extension for the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

Since creating the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress at the beginning of this year, we are witnessing the first focused effort in decades to make Congress a more effective institution that better serves the American people. Upholding our Article I responsibilities and acting as a strong, co-equal branch to the Executive Branch requires that we regularly assess – and seek to improve – our institutional policies and procedures. The Select Committee has actively begun this critical process, but their work is far from finished.

As leaders of the New Democrat Coalition and the Republican Study Committee, we represent a wide diversity of views of a majority of House Members that spans the ideological spectrum. We are proud that leaders within our respective caucuses serve as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Select Committee and are united in our belief that Congress can be better and do better. We also recognize that the problems we face can be solved if we work together. Transforming Congress into an institution that is equipped to effectively manage 21<sup>st</sup> Century challenges is no easy task. The Select Committee is addressing these challenges head on, looking for bold and cost-effective ways to make Congress work better.


We are encouraged by the Select Committee's efforts thus far. As leaders of two of the House's largest ideologically based Congressional Member Organizations (CMO), we were particularly interested in the Select Committee's recent hearing on promoting civility and collaboration in the House, where witnesses recommended investing more resources into CMOs as a way to build meaningful partnerships between Members. We think the rules governing how CMOs operate are ripe for reform and should be streamlined to reflect modern organizational practices in the House.

We believe that the Select Committee has done an impressive job of addressing a broad range of complex topics, but the issues in their mandate deserve more thorough consideration than they can give in the limited number of remaining days of 2019. Therefore, we respectfully request that the mandate of the Select Committee be extended through the remainder of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

An extension would also allow the Committee to continue setting an important, bipartisan example. With each hearing they hold and each set of recommendations they approve, they demonstrate that it is still possible for Democrats and Republicans to sit down together, engage in thoughtful discussions, and find bipartisan solutions to hard problems.

We thank you again for your leadership in creating the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress and respectfully request that you consider extending the Select Committee through the end of next year.

Sincerely



---

Jim Himes  
Chairman Emeritus  
New Democrat Coalition



---

Mike Johnson  
Chairman  
Republican Study Committee