

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MODERNIZATION

FLASH REPORT:

Artificial Intelligence Strategy & Implementation

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

December 18, 2023

This report is the fourth and final in a series of monthly flash reports the Subcommittee is releasing on artificial intelligence (AI) strategy and implementation in the House of Representatives. The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the use of AI technology by House offices and legislative branch agencies, as summarized by their response letters sent to the Committee on House Administration (CHA) this fall.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1) The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) will maintain a comprehensive *internal* AI use case inventory, to be available to House staff. Taking this step will increase transparency, knowledge sharing, and accountability, while providing member offices with a useful *internal* resource. The CAO will rely on CHA to share selected information about AI use cases publicly. Towards that end, the House is currently using AI in the following manner:

Category	Use Case	Description
Operations	Helpdesk and	AI-assisted chatbots and other AI
	related services	automations or support for Helpdesk.
Front Office	Member scheduling	AI-assisted scheduling for Member
		activities, committee schedule deconflicts,
		etc.
Constituency	Casework	AI-assisted functionality used in several
Services		constituent management software products,
		for example zip code analysis to confirm
		constituent is in Representative's district.
Constituency	Correspondence	AI-generated constituent correspondence.
Services		
Communication	Internal	AI-assisted drafts of emails, memos, and
		briefings.
Communication	External speech &	AI-assisted first drafts to develop talking
	messaging	points, correct grammar, modify for
		sentiment, polish content.
Legislation	Policy analysis	AI-assisted internal research, summarizing
		lengthy content, formatting data and
		analyzing large PDFs.
Legislation	Bill drafting	AI-assisted drafting of bills, specifically
		focused on grammar correction, draft
		refinement, summarization.

Legislation	Comparative Print	AI-based application that helps staff
	Suite	compare proposed legislation with current
		laws using natural language processing.

Information as of 12/18/23. List is non-exhaustive and subject to change.

- 2) CAO is actively discussing the 'research and evaluation' restriction on the use of ChatGPT Plus and related services. Staff may be allowed to use this tool (or others like it) in normal, operational workflows with critical caveats as soon as 2024.
- 3) CAO is collecting and will post a <u>House Digital Service page on AI</u> that will include guidance on practical techniques (like prompts), as well as emerging practices for use that can inform Member Office and Committee tipsheets. This information will draw from the CAO's AI Advisory Group effort, which has so far included 200+ staffers in over 120 Offices.
- 4) CAO will continue to actively refine a more formal House-tailored AI Principles and AI Policy, with a continued focus on addressing the three remaining core functions of the NIST AI RMF Playbook (Manage, Map, and Measure).
- 5) House staff may submit requests for additional third-party AI tools, like ChatGPT Plus, and CAO will follow a review and approval process similar to that already in effect for other cloud-based services.
- 6) CAO is exploring first-party, secure LLM options, including Microsoft Azure OpenAI service and ChatGPT's new "Custom GPTs" functionality, as a technical baseline for future (yet-to-be-approved) pilot LLM projects that are larger in scale.

SUSTAINED EFFORTS:

1) We continue to rely on a list of public AI use case inventories from the <u>Library of Congress (LOC)</u>, the <u>Government Publishing Office (GPO)</u>, and the <u>Clerk</u>. CHA notes that LOC's LC Labs group now has eleven use cases from the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the

Congressional Research Service, the U.S. Copyright Office, the Library Collections and Services Group, and the National Library for the Blind and Print Disabled.

- 2) We have seen sustained management attention to establish comprehensive AI-related governance documents in line with the AI framework from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). CHA has also seen a deepening integration of AI governance into business strategy. For example, LOC's AI working group was chartered as a subgroup of the LOC's Technology Strategy Board and intentionally includes representation from non-technical units across LOC.
- 3) We have seen other relevant actions and efforts that CHA commends, including GPO's sustained efforts to establish an AI advisory committee, to develop a detailed AI strategy based on their new AI policy, and to upskill their staff. Similarly, CHA is encouraged by the Clerk's use of the Congressional Data Task Force's public meetings as a venue for sharing knowledge and expertise from civil society in discussions around data governance.

NEXT STEPS for 2024:

CHA will continue to focus on AI in government operations through the duration of 2024. This includes critical attention to AI use case inventories.¹

Accordingly, CHA has requested quarterly updates from CAO, GPO, and LOC, and will additionally be receiving quarterly updates from the Smithsonian Institution, the Architect of the Capitol, and the U.S. Capitol Police. CHA plans to issue additional Flash Reports summarizing selected activities from each quarter throughout 2024.

CHA has requested bi-annual updates from the Clerk and may request individualized updates from other House support entities as needed.

¹ See: Artificial Intelligence: Agencies Have Begun Implementation but Need to Complete Key Requirements, <u>GAO-24-105980</u>.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

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.

CHA originally requested monthly updates between August and November 2023 from several congressional support entities. Those assisted in coordination with congressional oversight, and formed the basis of an oversight agenda for 2024.