



Bipartisan Policy Center Action

March 20, 2026

House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee Leadership:

Chairman David Valadao (R-CA)

Ranking Member Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)

Dear Chairman Valadao and Ranking Member Espaillat:

The Bipartisan Policy Center and its advocacy affiliate, BPC Action, work together with leaders from both parties on solutions to lower the everyday cost of living and create more opportunities for Americans. On behalf of BPC and BPC Action, I am pleased to share our priorities for the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee for fiscal year 2027:

- **\$10M for the Modernization Initiatives Account** to continue the work of the bipartisan Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.
- **Report language** to compile a comprehensive report detailing the projects funded by the Modernization Initiatives Account since its establishment in FY2022.
- **Report language** to update the Congressional Research Service's existing research on judicial "canons of construction."
- **Report language** for the Congressional Research Service to create and regularly maintain a report that compiles final and non-appealable judicial decisions that hold that the major questions doctrine has been violated.
- **Increased funds and development of new resources** for the House Office of Legislative Counsel.
- **Increased funds and development of new resources** for congressional committees.
- **Report language** to require the Joint Committee on Taxation to regularly share explanations of their models with Congress and the general public.

Ensuring that members of Congress and their staff have the tools and resources they need will help create a more efficient and effective government that better serves the American people. Please find additional support for these recommendations attached.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rachel Timmons, Manager for BPC Action, at rtimmons@bpcaction.org.

Sincerely,

Michele Stockwell

President, Bipartisan Policy Center Action

FY2027 Appropriations Priorities: Legislative Branch Subcommittee

Rapidly rising debt and interest payments are slowing growth and making it more expensive for Americans to buy cars and homes, attend college, or pay off credit cards. To achieve fiscal sustainability, BPC recommends that Congress enact legislation to reduce the growth of mandatory program spending and increase federal revenue. For FY2027, at minimum, Congress should ensure that discretionary spending grows no faster than inflation. At the same time, BPC believes it is achievable to prudently invest in agencies and programs that expand opportunities for American families and businesses.

With these principles in mind, BPC Action respectfully recommends:

Modernization Initiatives Account

The Modernization Initiatives Account (MIA) was created in FY2022 to support efforts identified by the bipartisan Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. Initially appropriated at the \$2 million level, the fund was increased to \$10 million in FY2023, FY2024, and the House-approved FY2025 budget. This fund has enabled the implementation of many technology-focused recommendations, including bulk purchasing of e-Discovery tools for committees, the development of a new committee portal, and the creation of a legislative branch staff directory. Appropriations for FY2026 reduced the fund to \$4 million, potentially delaying full implementation of the Modernization Committee's recommendations and development of additional innovation opportunities. Funding the account at a robust level will lead to further workplace and workforce efficiencies within the legislative branch, allowing members to better serve the American people. To maximize potential benefits, we request the following:

- **Funding: \$10 million in funding for MIA** to support modernization projects.
- **Requested Report Language:**
The committee directs the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to compile a comprehensive report detailing the projects funded by the Modernization Initiatives Account since its establishment in FY2022. The report should include the names and status reports for each active and completed project, as well as a list of potential future projects that could use account funds. The CAO should collaborate with the House Administration Modernization & Innovation Subcommittee to identify all Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress recommendations related to each project named in the report.

Congressional Research Service

The recent Supreme Court decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* overturned forty years of the "Chevron deference doctrine," which gave federal courts significant leeway in deferring to regulatory agencies' interpretations of statutes. The decision means that agencies



can no longer rely on implied delegations expressed in vague or ambiguous legislative language. In September 2024, BPC convened a bipartisan working group to examine the decision and its implications for Congress and administrative rulemaking. The working group's [report](#) made numerous recommendations that the legislative branch should consider over the long term. As an initial step, we believe the Congressional Research Service can do more to help the legislative branch understand the new policymaking environment created post-Loper, and thus request the following:

- Requested Report Language:
The committee directs the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service to **update its existing research on judicial “canons of construction”** by regularly compiling updates on how commonly used canons shape statutory interpretation and implementation by other branches of government. Reports should highlight how such canons and their use by other branches might be accounted for in legislative drafting.
- Requested Report Language:
To help Congress better evaluate whether legislation is needed to clarify an agency's authority in certain areas, the committee directs the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service **to create and regularly maintain a report that compiles final and non-appealable judicial decisions that hold that the major questions doctrine has been violated.** The report should include legislative drafting implications for Congress and how such decisions interact with other judicial rulings on legislation and agency delegation.

House Office of Legislative Counsel

As the subcommittee and those in Congress are aware, the demands placed on the House Office of Legislative Counsel (HOLC) continue to increase as drafting requests have skyrocketed. Likewise, the Loper Bright decision requires Congress to be more explicit in its delegations of authority and expressions of legislative intent. BPC Action encourages the **appropriation of additional funds and the development of new resources** to enable HOLC to adequately meet these rising demands.

Congressional Committees

Congressional committees are the principal vehicle for examining problems, developing solutions, and refining legislation. In the wake of Loper Bright, these activities will only grow more critical; however, committee staffing and funding have declined over time. Congress cannot improve the legislative process—including expressing delegations more clearly and improving directions provided to agencies—without adequate committee resources. BPC Action encourages the **appropriation of increased funds and development of new resources** that would allow committees to expand their policy and legal expertise.



Joint Committee on Taxation

Congress, the executive branch, non-governmental researchers, and the general public alike have greatly benefited from the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) efforts to enhance transparency in its work, report regularly on its research methods, and share modeling information with the public and the policy community. For example, CBO recently published code repositories for several of its models on GitHub, including their conventional tariff analysis model. These efforts enable researchers inside and outside government to replicate CBO's work and build on it, for example, by using alternative assumptions or newly available data. The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) also produces a great deal of valuable research and data for Congress and the public but generally has not shared as much information about its models as CBO has. Congress should encourage JCT to reduce this information gap and enhance the breadth and depth of information they share with the general public.

- Requested Report Language:

The committee directs the Joint Committee on Taxation to enhance transparency of its work by **regularly sharing with Congress and the general public information about its revenue and macroeconomic model development, changes to its models, and explanations of how its models inform policy analysis and revenue estimates.**

Reports should highlight efforts by the Joint Committee on Taxation to publish modeling resources and develop modeling tools for public use, and should be published on the Joint Committee of Taxation's website no less than once per year.

BPC Action commends your long-standing commitment to support projects like those outlined above that contribute to the healthy functioning of the legislative branch. Ensuring that members of Congress and their staff have the tools and resources they need will help create a more efficient and effective government that better serves the American people.

