

KEVIN F. McCUMBER
DEPUTY CLERK

LISA P. GRANT
DEPUTY CLERK

Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6601

December 30, 2022

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis,

Pursuant to Section 502 of House Resolution 756 from the 116th Congress, I am submitting this quarterly report about the Comparative Print Project.

As the Committee is aware, the Comparative Print Suite is a set of applications that allows House staff and others to create on-demand, point-in-time comparative prints between legislative texts and between legislative text and the law. My staff in Legislative Computer Systems (LCS), in partnership with the House Office of the Legislative Counsel (HOLC) and our contractors, lead the project team.

House Release

Since the last report, we reached a major milestone and released the Comparative Print Suite House-wide. This release was done in two steps.

- On October 21, the project team deployed the product into the Office of the Clerk's production cloud environment at compare.house.gov, which made the application available to anyone in the House with the URL. We transitioned HOLC staff and

Committee Pilot Group users from the vendor space to the production environment as advanced users.

- On October 26, the Office of the Clerk distributed an e-Dear Colleague announcing the availability of the Comparative Print Suite House-wide. Almost immediately, staff began using the application and registering for the required training offered via the Congressional Staff Academy (CSA).

From October 21 to December 15, 90 House staff completed the required training and gained advanced user access. 370 individuals in the House (new users and pilot group users) now have advanced user access. Support calls have been minimal.

Product Support and Training

As mentioned, in partnership with the CSA, we completed development of the required training course the week of October 17 and made it available on the CSA platform on October 25. The training is a series of fictionalized scenarios illustrating how to use various features. Introductory material aids the user's understanding of the scenarios.

Course feedback has been positive and informative.

“I found the scenarios the most helpful. [They] offered good examples of how to use the suite.”

“I liked the visual nature of the tutorial and felt that the screen captures were helpful.”

“It was very useful to see the feature that shows how a bill changes current law. This is very helpful when trying to look up the underlying statutes to provide context for discussion with staff and Members of Congress.”

– *Feedback from users*

In response to requests for the ability to watch segments of the course after the initial viewing, CSA provided a playlist for everyone who has completed the course. This allows staff to use the tools in the Suite while following along with the video.

Pilot Group

On November 22, the product team transitioned the pilot group users outside the House—Congressional Budget Office, Library of Congress (LOC), and Joint Committee on Taxation—to a new instance of the application managed and located in the vendor's cloud environment. This instance mirrors the Clerk's production environment and follows its release and update schedule.

Additionally, since the last report, our office has added the remaining 13 staff from the Legislative Analysis Services section of the Congressional Research Service (CRS), which means all legislative analysis staff now have access. This section uses the Comparative Print Suite to expedite the publishing of CRS bill summaries. The Suite, along with the redevelopment of LOC's Text Analysis Program, are necessary modernization initiatives to improve the section's efficiency.

Product Updates and Releases

Following the House-wide launch, the product team and the vendor have been working on backlog items that will be included in future releases. The next major release planned for the second quarter of 2023 will add a new feature that shows how an amendment changes legislation. The module will illustrate how Floor and Committee amendments would alter the text of a bill.

Per LCS's product release schedule, my Office made a minor release update to the Suite on December 12, 2022.¹ I have enclosed the release notes.

Stakeholder Engagement

HOLC and LCS staff continue to engage key stakeholders and other interested parties. Since the last report, HOLC and LCS staff briefed Representative Bill Posey and provided him and his staff a demonstration of the product. He said we exceeded his expectations. Additionally, we shared a demonstration at the public Congressional Data Task Force meeting on December 13, 2022, and discussed the project during remarks before the Advisory Commission on the Records of Congress on December 5, 2022.

Clerk staff highlighted the project and fielded questions from House and Senate staff at the Bicameral Legislative System Forums hosted by Scott Rodman (from Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's Office) and Stephen Dwyer (from House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer's Office). At these meetings, Senate staff specifically requested access to the Comparative Print Suite. Currently, we are in discussions on this matter.

In addition to the October 25 e-Dear Colleague, my Office distributed a follow-up e-Dear Colleague on December 21. My Office coordinated with the Office of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to highlight the tool in the CAO's November 29 Customer Advocate Connection newsletter. HOLC, during their time at New Member Orientation, included in their slides information about the availability of and intended uses for the Suite, and my Office referenced

¹ In the fourth quarter of 2022, LCS implemented a product release schedule for several of the products and applications it manages (LIMS and Comparative Print Suite). Releases, which will not occur every week, will take place at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays or Fridays, depending on the legislative calendar, with Saturdays at 9 a.m. as an alternative.

the Suite in the 118th Congress *Member Reference Guide* that we will distribute to new Members on Opening Day.

Finally, unless otherwise directed, the next report will be sent on or before April 15, 2023. If you or others on the Committee have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cheryl L. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk of the House

Enclosures

- Office of the Clerk and House Office of the Legislative Counsel e-Dear Colleague—October 26, 2022
- Office of the Clerk and House Office of the Legislative Counsel e-Dear Colleague—December 21, 2022
- Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Customer Advocate Connection Newsletter—November 29, 2022
- Office of the Clerk Release Notes—December 17, 2022

The Comparative Print Suite is now available House-wide



Sending Office: Office of the Clerk
Sent By: cheryl.johnson@mail.house.gov



Dear Members and Staff:

The offices of the Clerk and the Legislative Counsel are pleased to announce the release of the **Comparative Print Suite** at compare.house.gov.

The Comparative Print Suite is a set of applications that display legislative changes in context, including how a bill might change current law and how two versions of a legislative proposal are different.

All House staff have immediate access to the Basic Edition of the Comparative Print Suite with access to the **Bill to Bill Differences** and **Bill Viewer** tools.

To use the Advanced Edition, staff will need to take the required Comparative Print Suite course available through the CAO's [Congressional Staff Academy website](#). However, we encourage everyone to review the training course as it includes learning objectives for both the Basic and Advanced Editions of the Comparative Print Suite.

In addition to the tools that are available in the Basic Edition, advanced users will have access to two versions of the **How a Bill Changes Current Law** tool as well as the ability to upload files to generate comparative print reports. Advanced users will also have a **My Reports** feature that stores comparative prints generated from uploaded documents.

After completing the on-demand course, staff will be granted advanced access, which may take up to 48 hours to process, excluding weekends or holidays, after course completion.

For questions about legislative drafting, contact the Office of the Legislative Counsel at (202) 225-6060 or legcoun@mail.house.gov.

For assistance using the Comparative Print Suite, contact Legislative Computer Systems at Clerk-Support-ComparativePrint@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Cheryl L. Johnson' and the signature on the right is 'E. Wade Ballou Jr.'.

Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk of the House

E. Wade Ballou Jr.
Legislative Counsel

The Comparative Print Suite is available House-wide



Sending Office: Office of the Clerk
Sent By: cheryl.johnson@mail.house.gov



Dear Members and Staff:

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Cheryl L. Johnson
Clerk of the House

E. Wade Ballou Jr.
Legislative Counsel



Good morning,

We hope you enjoyed the Thanksgiving break and have returned in a fresh state of mind to tackle the last month of the 117th Congress. This week, we're highlighting resources to help you streamline your legislative work, secure your health coverage for 2023, and give back to loved ones and those in need.



Track and Compare Legislative Changes

Need to compare legislative proposals, track legislative changes in context, prepare for an upcoming suspension vote, or research how a bill might impact current law? Use the new [Comparative Print Suite](#), a set of tools developed by the Office of the Clerk and the Office of Legislative Counsel. All House staff can view bills and resolutions as well as generate comparative print reports with an easy-to-read, “tracked changes” format using the platform’s Basic Edition.

After completing [training through the Congressional Staff Academy](#), staff can use the Advanced Edition to upload documents, generate reports to see how a bill changes current law, and save those reports. For [more information](#) or assistance using the Comparative Print Suite, contact Legislative Computer Systems at [Clerk-Support-ComparativePrint@mail.house.gov](#). For questions about legislative drafting, contact the Office of the Legislative Counsel at 202-225-6060 or [LegCoun@mail.house.gov](#).



Navigate Open Season

If you haven't done so already, now's the time to review your current health care insurance plan, vision and/or dental coverage, and flexible spending accounts and make any changes before **Open Season ends on Monday, December 12**. Those interested in switching providers can tune into the **2023 Virtual Annual Health Benefits Fair on December 6 at 11 a.m. ET** and speak directly with insurance provider representatives. Staff eligible for DC Health Link may go to the [DC Health Link website](#) for more detailed information regarding coverage, and those eligible for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB) may visit the [Office of Personnel Management website](#) for information on FEHB plans.

You can also easily compare available health plans through [Checkbook](#), a free tool that helps you find the best DC Health Link or FEHB plan for your needs. For more information about Checkbook, check out the [Checkbook 101 seminar on December 6](#) or visit the [House Center for Well-Being website](#). For questions about health plan selections, contact the [Office of Payroll and Benefits](#).



Give the Gift of Giving

Celebrate the holiday season with gifts from the House Gift Shop. From House stickers and holiday-themed socks to books, ornaments, and home décor, you can find a variety of unique, American-made gifts for everyone on your list. And – during the **Gift Shop Holiday Sale, which runs till December 9**, you can score 20 percent off your qualifying purchase. Stop by the House Gift Shop in Longworth B218 or by place an order by phone at 202-226-5362.

For those looking to give back to the community, the **Library of Congress' Surplus Book Program** is a great way to start. Through the program, your office can help provide free books to libraries, schools, and organizations in need. Simply submit an [Application to Participate form](#) and a brief letter from your Member requesting approval for participation. For [additional information](#) about this program, including sample application letters and flyers, visit the [CAO Coach website](#).

Helping House Staffers Like You Every Day

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to me directly! The Customer Advocates are here to make your transition to the 118th Congress as seamless as possible.

Feel free to share the Customer Advocate Connection with your colleagues! If they would like to opt in to receive the newsletter, please provide their email address and I will add them to the list. You can also [unsubscribe from this list](#).

For the latest CAO updates, visit HouseNet, and follow the CAO on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Sincerely,

Mary Pritschau
Customer Advocate
Customer Experience Center
O: 202-226-3176 / C: 202-839-1509

Member Focused. Service Driven.

Want to stay *in the know*? Follow the CAO!



House Office Support

First Call: **202-225-8000**



The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) provides support services and business solutions to House Members, Officers, and staff.



Release Notes for December 16, 2022

Release number: 2.2.0

- updated the application to Angular 14 (from Angular 11).
- Allows users to select and copy text from the outline and paste it into other documents (Word, Email)
- Resolves an issue with database container restarting
- Allows users to see the full version number when accessing the Comparative Print suite on a mobile device
- Resolves an issue with resizing the Comparative Print landing page
- Continues to have the "How an Amendment Changes Bill" (AIP) option from the dropdown menu (as well as the code) removed from the production solution
- Removed "Learn More" button on login page and updated text on login page
- Fix for: Incorrect report being displayed after Bill Viewer report is run by a user.
- Fix for: XML parsing issue causing an extra > symbol to be displayed comparison when not expected
- Fix for: Typo in stages of legislation in Bill Stage dropdown menu
- Pilot Group outside of House: moved them to new URL; implement redirects; Access granted to Comparative Print for new CRS users.