



CONSERVATIVE REFORM NETWORK

COUNCIL FOR



February 29, 2016

The Honorable Candice Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on House Administration  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules and Administration  
United States Senate

The Honorable Gregg Harper  
Vice Chairman  
Joint Committee on the Library  
United States Congress

Dear Chairman Miller, Chairman Blunt, and Vice Chairman Harper,

As a coalition of 13 conservative, free market organizations we urge you to expand public access to Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports.

**Each year CRS receives \$100 million in taxpayer funding to produce and update thousands of nonpartisan reports describing government agencies, explaining public policy, and tallying government spending.** They are an invaluable resource to Congress in its efforts to oversee our massive federal government and hold it accountable.

Members of Congress and their staff have easy access to CRS reports. So too do lobbyists and other Beltway insiders, who often pay for the reports through expensive subscription services. But taxpayers cannot easily get copies of CRS reports.

This policy is unfair and outdated. It also stands in stark contrast to other legislative branch agencies: both the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office release their reports to the public.

**Making CRS reports easily accessible by the public will increase transparency in government, and allow everyday citizens access to important information that will better educate them on the issues before Congress.**

The bottom line is taxpayers pay for these reports. It is only fair that they have easy access to them.

Sincerely,

Phil Kerpen  
President, American Commitment

Grover Norquist  
President, Americans for Tax Reform

Norm Singleton  
President, Campaign for Liberty

Neil Bradley  
Chief Strategy Officer, Conservative Reform Network

Tom Schatz  
President, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Adam Brandon  
President and CEO, Freedom Works

Michael Needham  
CEO, Heritage Action for America

Seton Motley  
President, Less Government

Michael Ostrolenk  
Co-Founder, Liberty Coalition

Brandon Arnold  
Executive Director, National Taxpayers Union

Jerry Taylor  
President, Niskanen Center

Kevin Kosar  
Senior Fellow and Director of the Governance Project, R Street Institute

David Williams  
President, Taxpayers Protection Alliance