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**STORYCORPS LAUNCHES ONE SMALL STEP CONGRESS
TO FOSTER CROSS-PARTISAN CONVERSATION—NOT TO DEBATE POLITICS—
BUT TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER AS PEOPLE**

Washington, D.C., June 5, 2023 – StoryCorps, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of everyday people, has announced the launch of One Small Step Congress. Nationwide, thousands of Americans have participated in One Small Step (OSS), which pairs strangers with opposing political views for a facilitated conversation—not about politics—but about who they are as people. The program is designed to remind us of the humanity in all of us, even those with whom we disagree. Similarly, the goal of OSS Congress is to illuminate the threats of toxic polarization and foster cross-partisan connection and conversation between Congressional members and senior staff from opposing parties. The program runs from June to December 2023 and to date, a number of congressional members have participated in OSS Congress conversations, including U.S. Representative William Timmons of South Carolina.

Timmons remarked, "The more people are talking to one another, building relationships and putting the time in, we'll be able to get back on track—I'm still hopeful."

To raise awareness among congressional members and their staffs, OSS Congress will conduct a targeted advertising campaign and serve as a sponsor of the Congressional Baseball Game, held annually at Nationals Stadium in Washington, D.C. on June 14. Program activities will include hosting a social media experience on Center Field Plaza; distributing free One Small Step Question Card decks to support meaningful cross-partisan conversations; and a sixty-second video about OSS Congress which will be broadcast on the jumbotron, featuring real OSS participants across the country, encouraging their elected leaders to participate. Over the next seven months, OSS Congress will facilitate and record 30-minute conversations between Congress members and their senior staffers across the partisan divide,

capturing content and testimonials that highlight moments of connection and shared humanity.

About One Small Step

Launched by [StoryCorps](#) in 2021, One Small Step (OSS) is based on “contact theory,” a long-studied concept from social psychology positing that a meaningful interaction between people with opposing views can help turn “them” into “us.” Currently, One Small Step is working intensively in three Anchor Communities across the country, including Richmond, VA; Wichita, KS; and Fresno, CA. To date, more than 3,400 people across 40 states have recorded One Small Step interviews. For more information about One Small Step Congress visit takeonesmallstep.org/congress and learn more about One Small Step at takeonesmallstep.org.

About StoryCorps

StoryCorps' mission is to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world. Founded in 2003, StoryCorps has given over 635,000 people the chance to record interviews about their lives. The award-winning organization preserves these recordings in its archive at the Library of Congress, the largest single collection of human voice ever gathered. Learn more at storycorps.org.

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