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(Washington, DC) – Congressman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), Ranking Member-designee for the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, wrote today to the incoming Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) to request that the first hearing in the 112th Congress examine recent and continuing reports of widespread flawed and fraudulent foreclosure practices by the nation's largest banks.

Cummings' request comes in light of reports of widespread fraud in legal proceedings, as well as recent lawsuits filed by the state attorneys general of Arizona and Nevada alleging potential fraud by at least one bank against homeowners, thereby undermining existing consent decrees between the banks and the states and possibly violating state laws.

"Since September 2010, ongoing reports have revealed the widespread utilization of flawed and fraudulent practices, most notably 'robo-signing,' throughout the mortgage servicing industry," the letter reads, in part. "These revelations prompted the nation's largest mortgage servicers to halt foreclosures in 23 states and conduct internal reviews, and also led all 50 state attorneys general to initiate a joint investigation into these practices.

"Recent reports demonstrate that the problems have not subsided and may be more egregious and widespread than initially revealed. [Monday], the Chief Justice of New Jersey's highest court announced that the state's courts would stop foreclosures if the banks cannot show that they are following state law when foreclosing. On December 17, the attorneys general of Arizona and Nevada filed a lawsuit against Bank of America, accusing it of engaging in 'widespread fraud' by misleading customers with 'false promises' about their eligibility for modifications on their home mortgages."

Cummings requested a hearing in part to examine the veracity of these reports and the extent to which existing government programs and provisions of public support are being undermined or abused.

Cummings' letter follows a recent statement given by Congressman Issa in which he said, "The intention is to have our first couple of hearings be those bipartisan issues we were already working on."

Cummings applauds the incoming Chairman's commitment to working across the aisle to help protect Americans, and looks forward to working with Congressman Issa to help keep more Americans in their homes on the path toward their American Dream.

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Documents and Links

[Letter from Ranking Member Cummings to Chairman Issa requesting first Committee hearing examine recent and continuing reports of widespread flawed and fraudulent foreclosure practices by the nation's largest banks.](#)