

Washington, DC (Feb. 16, 2012)—Today, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, issued the following statement regarding the refusal by Chairman Darrell Issa to allow a minority witness at today's hearing on contraceptives:

“As today's hearing made clear, we did not have a balanced panel of witnesses to discuss the issue of contraception in a reasoned and thoughtful manner. To address this deficiency, the minority wanted to invite two witnesses: Sandra Fluke, a third year Georgetown law school student, and Barry Lynn, the Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Unfortunately, Chairman Issa forced the minority to choose only one of these witnesses. We chose Ms. Fluke because she would have been the only woman's voice testifying on behalf of millions of women who seek affordable and safe insurance coverage for contraceptives. We informed Mr. Lynn of our decision, and he was very gracious. We want to thank him for being willing to testify, and we wish the Chairman would have allowed both his testimony and Ms. Fluke's, but he did not. In lieu of appearing at the hearing today, we asked Mr. Lynn to prepare a written statement, which he did.”

Click [here](#) to read Mr. Lynn's written statement.

Click [here](#) to see the letter from Cummings to Issa objecting to the Chairman's decision to refuse testimony from Ms. Fluke.