



Welcome to the legislation page for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Democrats. Follow the links below to learn more about Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings' legislative priorities and achievements from the 112th Congress.

Passed by the House

- On October 14, 2011, Cummings and Rep. Landry introduced the “American Mariners Job Protection Act,” which would increase transparency surrounding the issuance of Jones Act waivers to allow foreign vessels to carry cargo between U.S. ports. They offered the legislation as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 and to the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011, and it was added to both.

- On April 25, 2012, the House passed the “The Government Accountability Office Improvement Act,” which was [introduced](#) by Cummings and all Committee Democrats in March to strengthen GAO’s authority to access agency records. This legislation passed as part of the “Digital Accountability and Transparency Act.”

- On April 26, 2012, the House passed the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2012, legislation Cummings joined Chairman Issa in introducing to protect federal information systems from cyber-attacks.

- On May 7, 2012, Cummings joined Reps. Chu, Honda, and other House Members in [intr](#)

[roducing](#)

“The Harry Lew Military Hazing Accountability and Prevention Act of 2012,” which would help prevent and provide transparency to hazing incidents in the armed forces. The legislation was included as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

- On May 10, 2012, Cummings, working with Reps. Reyes, Loretta Sanchez, and Hank Johnson, amended the National Defense Authorization Act to mandate that the Department of Defense enhance diversity in recruitment, promotion and retention of senior-level military leaders, including women and minorities. Last year, Cummings [introduced](#) similar legislation as the Military Leaders Enhancement Act (H.R. 2186).

- On May 15, 2012, Ranking Members Cummings, Filner, and Smith joined several other Members in [introducing](#) “The Military Family Home Protection Act” (H.R. 5747) to expand foreclosure protections for U.S. servicemembers, their families, survivors, and veterans. The Members then offered the legislation as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, which [passed](#) with a bipartisan vote of 394 to 27. Sen. Rockefeller introduced the companion bill. In July, H.R. 5747 successfully passed the House Veterans Affairs Committee.



Approved in Committee

- On November 1, 2011, Cummings joined Chairman Issa in introducing the Platts-Van Hollen Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, to strengthen the protections for federal whistleblowers. The Committee approved this legislation on a bipartisan vote of 35-0.

Introduced Legislation

- On March 17, 2011, Cummings, joined by all Democratic Members of the Committee, [introduced](#) the “Transparency and Openness in Government Act” to strengthen the nation’s core open government laws.

- On April 13, 2011, Cummings and Sen. Reed [introduced](#) the “Preserving Homes and Communities Act” to increase transparency in the foreclosure process and hold mortgage servicers accountable for engaging in loss mitigation efforts with qualified homeowners.

- On July 15, 2011, Cummings and Reps. Maloney and McCarthy introduced the “Stop Gun Trafficking and Strengthen Law Enforcement Act,” which would establish a dedicated firearms trafficking statute to empower law enforcement to keep high-powered firearms out of the hands of dangerous criminals.

- On September 21, 2011, Cummings and Rep. Lynch [introduced](#) “The Innovate to Deliver Act” to address the Postal Service’s financial challenges and make innovative structural changes. On September 12, 2012, Cummings and other Members [introduced](#) a short-term measure to give the Postal Service a 90-day extension on its pre-payment to the retired employee health benefit fund.

- On March 7, 2012, Cummings and Sen. Akaka [introduced](#) legislation to modernize the Hatch Act. Rep. Chaffetz and a number of other Members co-sponsored the House bill, and Sens. Lieberman, Levin, and Lee co-sponsored the Senate bill. The Office of Special Counsel [applauded](#) the bill.

- On May 22, 2012, Cummings introduced the “Gray Market Drug Reform and Transparency Act of 2012,” to reform the process by which so-called “gray market” drug companies buy and sell drugs facing national shortages.

- On June 6, 2012, Cummings [introduced](#) “The Defense Base Act Insurance Improvement Act of 2012,” which would save taxpayers huge sums of money by transitioning the existing workers’ compensation insurance system for overseas government contractors away from private sector insurance companies to a federal self-insurance program.