

Legislation

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.

Signed into Law



On November 27, 2012, President Barack Obama signed into law [The Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012](#)

. The legislation protects lawful disclosures of waste, fraud, and abuse, correcting court decisions that narrowed the scope of protected disclosures and impeded efforts to protect all whistleblowers.

Similar legislation, [The Platts-Van Hollen Whistleblower Protection Act of 2011](#) , was passed unanimously by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on November 3, 2011.

Ranking Member Cummings, who has been a proponent of expanding protections for federal whistleblowers for years, also praised the work of numerous open government organizations that fought for this legislation, including the Government Accountability Project, the Project on Government Oversight, the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Treasury Employees Union, the Liberty Coalition, the National Taxpayers Union, Public Citizen, the Taxpayers Protection Alliance, and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Passed by the House

On October 14, 2011, Ranking Member Cummings and Rep. Jeff Landry introduced [The American Mariners Job Protection Act, H.R. 3202](#), 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 Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011, which passed the House.

On April 25, 2012, the House passed [The Government Accountability Office Improvement Act](#), which was introduced by Ranking Member 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 Ranking Member Cummings joined Chairman Issa in introducing to protect federal information systems from cyber-attacks.

On May 7, 2012, Ranking Member Cummings joined Reps. Judy Chu, Mike Honda, and other House Members in introducing [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, Ranking Member Cummings, working with Reps. Silvestre 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, the House passed legislation introduced by Ranking Members Cummings, Bob Filner, Adam Smith and several other Members, [The Military Family Home Protection Act \(H.R. 5747\)](#) to expand foreclosure protections for U.S. servicemembers, their families, survivors, and veterans. The Members offered the legislation as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. The amendment passed with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 394 to 27. Senator Jay Rockefeller introduced the companion bill in the United States Senate.

Introduced Legislation

On March 17, 2011, Ranking Member 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, Ranking Member Cummings and Senator Jack 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, Ranking Member Cummings and Reps. Carolyn Maloney and Carolyn 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, Ranking Member Cummings and Rep. Stephen Lynch introduced [The Innovate to Deliver Act](#), to address the Postal Service's financial challenges and make innovative structural changes. On September 12, 2012, Ranking Member 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, Ranking Cummings and Senator Daniel Akaka introduced [legislation to modernize the Hatch Act](#)

. Rep. Jason Chaffetz and a number of other Members co-sponsored the House bill, and Senators Lieberman, Levin, and Lee co-sponsored the Senate bill. The Office of Special Counsel

[applauded](#)

the bill. The Senate version of the passed and is pending in the House.

On May 22, 2012, Ranking Member 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, Ranking Member 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.