

**Opening Statement
Chairman Elijah E. Cummings**

H.R. 1847, the Inspector General Protection Act

March 26, 2019

The Inspector General Protection Act was introduced by Representatives Ted Lieu and Jody Hice last week.

I am proud to support this bipartisan measure which would improve IG independence.

The bill would also address the disturbingly slow nomination of IGs that has been the norm across multiple administrations.

The bill would require notification of Congress 30 days prior to an IG being placed on leave.

Such notification is already required prior to an IG being removed from duty.

The bill also would require the President to report to Congress if he has not nominated an IG after 210 days of a vacancy occurring.

The report must include the reasons for failing to make the nomination and a target date for doing so.

The requirement will hopefully prod the executive branch to nominate IGs in a more timely manner.

IGs provide critical oversight and accountability within federal agencies and the positions need to be filled more quickly than is currently the case.

I urge Members to support this bill.