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2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974
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Opening Statement Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member Oversight and Government Reform Committee

H.R. 2860, The OPM IG Act

October 29, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank Federal Workforce Subcommittee Chairman Farenthold and Ranking Member Lynch for their work on this important piece of legislation. H.R. 2860 would give the Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management the critical funding he needs from OPM's Revolving Fund to do necessary audits and investigations of this Fund.

OPM's \$2 billion Revolving Fund finances such activities as the federal government's background investigations, training programs, and USAJobs. This legislation would remedy the gap in the current law which prevents this \$2 billion Fund from paying for the costs of the OPM Inspector General to properly oversee the Revolving Fund's activities.

Subcommittee Chairman Farenthold and Ranking Member Lynch held a hearing on OPM's Revolving Fund this past June.

Among other things, the OPM Inspector General testified on the significant concerns he had about the quality of background investigations. Most recently, the Edward Snowden incident and the Navy Yard shooting have demonstrated the need for thorough oversight of the federal government's background investigation and security clearance process.

The OPM Inspector General plays a vital role in ensuring that the background investigations used to determine whether individuals should be trusted with our government's classified and sensitive information are properly conducted.

This legislation would give the OPM Inspector General the resources he needs to conduct the necessary oversight of our nation's background investigations process.

The Senate has already passed a substantially similar bill, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting H.R. 2860.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back the balance of my time.

Contact: Jennifer Hoffman, Communications Director (202) 226-5181