

Testimony of The Honorable Kweisi Mfume (MD-07)
Member Day Hearing
House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
December 11, 2023

Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Raskin, and Members of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify during this Member Day Hearing. I am grateful to serve on this Committee, and would like to discuss two important topics today.

Firstly, I am here to urge the Committee to consider legislation of mine, H.Res 42, that expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that a commemorative stamp should be issued by the United States Postal Service (USPS) honoring the life and legacy of Congressman Elijah E. Cummings. I am also leading a bipartisan letter to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee requesting for a recommendation to the United States Postmaster General to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the legacy of Elijah E. Cummings

Most Members on this Committee know and understand the mighty legacy of former Chairman Cummings, who was elected amongst his peers to serve as Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform in 2019. While he was only able to serve as Chairman for 10 months, in that short time, he presided over landmark hearings, mentored freshman members, and made a tremendous impact.

His tenure as Chairman exemplified both his passionate dedication to the wellbeing of the American People and his respect for the humanity and political viewpoints of his colleagues in both political parties. Throughout his career, Congressman Cummings tirelessly worked to lower prescription drug costs. As Chairman, he led numerous investigations regarding the pharmaceutical industry. The Committee ultimately released a report including the recommendation that the House pass the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, which was successfully passed in December 2019.

Elijah's fierce advocacy for the betterment of our nation would in and of itself justify a commemorative postage stamp in his honor. Further, as a leader on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, he led efforts to address the financial stability of the USPS, including introducing legislation intended to support universal service. That same dedication to the American People and to the education, health care, and other foundations of our daily lives are further justification.

I and over fifty Members of Congress—including the Chairman and Ranking Member of this Committee—are supportive of this endeavor, and strongly believe Elijah's legacy is worthy of both national reflection and commemoration. That is why I am urging for the Committee's full consideration and support in upcoming markups.

Secondly, I would like to briefly discuss H.R. 5658, the Vote by Mail Tracking Act, which I co-lead on a bipartisan basis with Representatives Katie Porter (D-CA), Nancy Mace (R-SC), Gerry

Connolly (D-VA), Byron Donalds (R-FL), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ).

This bill would require each mail-in ballot envelope to contain a USPS barcode for tracking purposes, meet USPS design requirements and standards for machinable letters, and include an Official Election Mail logo to certify authenticity.

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy, and I believe we must doggedly protect every step of the voting process. This common-sense legislation adds another safeguard to the increasingly efficient and effective mail-in balloting process. I am proud to co-lead this legislation, and urge the Committee's full consideration and support in upcoming markups.

Thank you, again, Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Raskin, for hosting this Member Day to bring attention to these important issues. I appreciate your continued support in pursuing a commemorative stamp honoring the legacy of Congressman Cummings and I look forward to working together with you and members of both parties.