

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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### Opening Statement Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings

#### H.R. 1293, A Bill to Require OPM to Submit an Annual Report to Congress on Official Time

March 8, 2017

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1293, is identical to legislation that was reported out of this Committee in the last Congress.

It would require the Office of Personnel Management to submit an annual report to Congress on the use of time that federal employees who are union representatives use for the following activities:

- representing employees in grievances and arbitrations;
- participating in meetings requested by agency officials; and
- working with management on proposed agency initiatives, organizational change plans, and worker safety issues.

OPM has been voluntarily issuing reports on official time usage since 2002. The last time OPM issued a report on official time was in 2014. This legislation would help ensure that OPM issues the reports at the same time every year.

In addition, federal agencies would be required to submit data for the official time reports to OPM by the end of each calendar year.

We expect that this language will help OPM collect the data in a more timely manner from federal agencies.

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