

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

PREPARE Act

November 2, 2017

I want to thank Representative Cartwright for his strong leadership on this bipartisan bill.

This bill addresses the federal government's need to prepare for extreme weather events.

This bill is especially timely in light of the recent devastation from hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

Every Congress, this Committee holds a hearing with the Government Accountability Office to learn about the issues GAO finds pose the greatest risk to the fiscal stability of the federal government.

The purpose of those hearings is not just for us to listen, but rather for us to act on the information GAO provides.

Representative Cartwright has done just that with this bill. The PREPARE Act is based on recommendations GAO has made in its bi-annual high risk reports and that the Comptroller General has highlighted in testimony.

This bill would require each federal agency to develop a plan to incorporate extreme weather preparedness into the agency's operations. The bill also would require the executive branch to coordinate its efforts on extreme weather by establishing an interagency council.

This bill is bipartisan and supported by organizations across the political spectrum.

I urge the Committee to adopt the PREPARE Act.

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