

# 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

#### Cummings Amendment to H.R. 6302

November 16, 2016

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My amendment would authorize an increase in the annual salary and overtime limit up to level I of the Executive Schedule for Secret Service agents in every future year in which a presidential election is held.

A permanent solution for the pay cap waiver has been a top legislative priority for the Secret Service for some time now. Congress has a responsibility not just to conduct oversight of the agency, but provide the reforms the Secret Service needs to succeed.

I support these changes because the Secret Service needs to have this basic ability to pay its people in order to effectively recruit and retain the best agents possible. The men and women of the Secret Service deserve to know that they and their families will be fairly compensated in every presidential election cycle.

This Committee has a clear opportunity to make a real difference and facilitate the Secret Service's recovery from its staffing crisis. Yesterday, all Democratic Members of this Committee joined me in co-sponsoring a bill that provides a permanent solution for fair overtime compensation.

I hope all of my Republican colleagues will join us in ensuring Special Agents will not be forced to work months of overtime for free in the future.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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