



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ACCESS, EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ACCESS, EQUITY AND DIVERSITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF REPRESENTATIVE ELIJAH CUMMINGS (D-MD)

Organization of equal opportunity and diversity professionals conveys its condolences for the loss of an untiring defender of civil rights, democracy and the rule of law

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Washington, DC, October 18, 2019 - The American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity (AAAED), an organization of equal opportunity, diversity and affirmative action professionals, mourns the loss of civil rights champion, Congressman Elijah Cummings. Cummings was a strong ally in the fight for civil rights and an advocate for addressing issues related to poverty, such as needle exchange programs as a means to stop the spread of AIDS. Rep. Cummings passed away on Thursday, October 17, 2019.

Prior to his service as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Maryland's 7th congressional district (Baltimore and Howard County) and chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, Cummings served in the Maryland House of Delegates. In the Maryland General Assembly, he served as Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and was the first African American in Maryland history to be named Speaker Pro Tempore, the second highest position in the House of Delegates.

Cummings was born in 1951, the third child of seven, whose parents were sharecroppers. He attended Howard University in Washington, DC and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with Phi Beta Kappa honors. He graduated from the University of Maryland, School of Law, and practiced law for 19 years before his election to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1996. Cummings received 12 honorary doctoral degrees, including an honorary doctorate of public service from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2017.

Dr. Richard Anthony Baker, president of the Association stated, "The American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity mourns the passing of Chairman Elijah Cummings, a giant among giants who stood for civil rights, democracy, respect for the rule of law and appreciation for the humanity in us all. He will be sorely missed in these times."

Founded in 1974 as the American Association for Affirmative Action (AAAA), AAAED is a national not-for-profit association of professionals working in the areas of equal opportunity, compliance and diversity. The longest-serving representative of individuals in the equal opportunity and diversity professions, AAAED has 45 years of leadership providing quality professional training to practitioners and promoting understanding and advocacy of affirmative action and other equal opportunity laws. Nearly one-half of its membership is composed of EEO professionals working for academic institutions.

For more information about AAAED, go to: www.aaaed.org. ###

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