



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

May 29, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Like so many of you, I continue to mourn the sudden loss of our dear friend, Congressman Gerry Connolly. Gerry was more than a colleague—he was a trusted confidant, a fierce advocate for truth and transparency, and a dedicated servant to both his constituents and the institution we share. I treasured our friendship and our shared belief in congressional oversight as a tool for justice and good governance.

As we reflect on Gerry’s legacy, it is with great humility and deep respect for our Caucus that I now write to formally ask for your support in serving as the next Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

House Oversight Democrats stand at the nexus of ensuring our Republic remains a stronghold of democracy and a continued beacon of hope for the free world for centuries to come. The dismantling of our democracy at the hands of the Trump administration and his congressional enablers demands Committee leadership that meets this moment with vigor, experience, principle, and resolve. I am prepared to meet that moment; as my lifelong friend, successor, *and* predecessor Elijah Cummings did when he was Oversight Chair under the first twisted Trump administration.

What I bring to this role is a lifetime of public service — forged in the civil rights movement, tested in executive leadership, and guided by a disciplined focus on policies that improve the everyday lives of working families. I have served on this Committee since my return to Congress and, at Gerry’s request, I have served as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Government Operations during this and the previous Congress.

If entrusted with this responsibility, I will lead an Oversight agenda centered on the people we serve. My focus will include:

- **Protecting the Integrity of Democratic Institutions:** Conducting robust oversight of election subversion efforts, voter suppression tactics, and threats to the independence of our judiciary and civil service; much like in the vein of the stellar leadership brought by our former Ranking Member, Jamie Raskin.
- **Safeguarding Women’s Rights and Healthcare:** Conducting oversight to safeguard reproductive freedom, workplace equity, and access to healthcare. As the former Executive Director of the National Medical Association, I will continue to ensure federal policies support the full economic and decision-making power of women.
- **Forceful Defense of Civil Rights:** From my first time in Congress as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, to my decades-long leadership as President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), I have fought to dismantle systemic

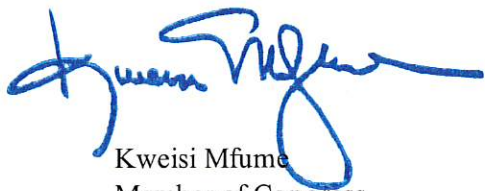
barriers, expand voting rights, and uplift underserved communities. These values are not new to me—they are my foundation.

- **A Lifelong Ally of the Union Movement:** My relationship with organized labor is built on decades of trust, action, and shared victories. I have picketed, marched, and faced arrests standing alongside organized workers across industries and led efforts to enshrine union rights and economic justice into law. I will continue to protect the right to organize, demand accountability in labor practices, and advance economic dignity for working families.
- **Defending the Federal Workforce:** Like Gerry, I have long defended our nation's merit-based civil service as vital to our democracy. I led a privileged resolution of inquiry, with the support of Oversight Democrats, demanding accountability from the Trump administration for the purging of Federal employees and Inspectors General of agencies.
- **Reining in Waste, Fraud, and Abuse—Sensibly:** This is not a GOP novelty, quite the contrary. Democrats have a long history of reining in waste, fraud, and abuse. We will continue holding all actors accountable, across the Trump administration and private sectors alike, for the misuse of taxpayer dollars. This includes continued rigorous oversight of DOGE actions and the misuse and abuse of sensitive government and individual information.
- **Combating Corporate Abuse and Regulatory Capture:** Exposing instances where special interests undermine public protections in healthcare, housing, and consumer safety. Particularly, leading Oversight Democrats in investigating abusive practices that drive up the cost of prescription medicine and put profits over people.
- **Ensuring Secure, Safe and Humane Borders:** Supporting oversight that promotes national security while upholding our humanitarian commitments, ensuring dignity, due process, and pathways to citizenship for all individuals across our nation's borders.

This moment requires more than promise—it requires a record of execution. The next Ranking Member must be ready on day one to lead with both the wisdom of experience and the courage to confront misconduct wherever it occurs—no matter the perpetrator. I believe I offer that leadership: steady, strategic, and deeply grounded in our shared Democratic values.

I respectfully ask for your support and would be honored to continue Elijah and Gerry's legacies by leading our Oversight efforts with the seriousness and resolve the American people deserve.

In unity and remembrance,



Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress