



Child Welfare League of America Recognizes a True Champion for Children and Families

The Child Welfare League of America is saddened by the loss of a great leader with the passing of Congressman Elijah Cummings on Thursday morning, October 17, 2019.

“I’ve often said, our children are the living messages we send to a future we will never see. But now our children are sending us to a future they will never see! There is something wrong with that picture!”—Elijah Cummings, April 2015

“Congressman Cummings understood the challenges families face. His comments at Freddie Gray’s funeral included here is evidence of that fact,” said CWLA President and CEO Chris James-Brown in honoring the memory of Congressman Elijah Cummings. *“He demonstrated his concern and compassion that is why we were so honored to have him address CWLA at our conference in 2007. In a highly partisan era, he was always respected by both sides and always a voice for the voiceless. He will be sorely missed by all advocates for children and by his beloved city of Baltimore.”*

In 2007 Congressman Cummings addressed hundreds of CWLA members at our Mid-Atlantic CWLA Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. In addressing the gathering at a plenary session, he began by telling about his recent experience of finding a homeless man in his car parked in front of his house. He built his comments around that experience and moved CWLA members with both his compassion and his great understanding of the issues of poverty and its impact on children.

Congressman Cummings represented Maryland’s seventh congressional district since winning the election in 1996. He was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He received a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Howard University and then graduated from the University of Maryland’s School of Law.

Among several committee assignments Congressman Cummings was serving as the Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. As the main investigative committee in the House of Representatives, Oversight and Reform has jurisdiction to investigate any federal program and any matter with federal policy implications. In recent months Congressman Cummings used that oversight to shine a bright light on immigration issues—especially the treatment of children.

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